FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PLO'S QADDUMI PROTESTS REPORTING OF REMARKS ATTRIBUTED AS-SUS

JN201952Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 20 December--Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has appealed to the Arab and international information media to maintain accuracy and to obtain its information only from the organization's official authoritative sources.

In a statement published here today by the Palestinian news agency WAFA in reply to statements attributed to PLO Office Director in Paris Ibrahim As-Sus, Qaddumi said. What has been published concerning this subject is a distortion of the stands attributed to some officials and aims at creating confusion and perplexity in the Palestinian arena and among world public opinion.

Qaddumi added that no one has the right to distort the principled political stands of the PLO, which have been approved by the organization's legislative and executive body.

PLO Summons As-Sus

JN210950Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0924 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 21 December--The newspaper AL-QABAS published here today reports that the PLO Political Department has decided to summon PLO representative in Paris Ibrahim As-Sus. The summoning comes in the aftermath of statements attributed to As-Sus in the French capital the day before yesterday about the PLO's preparedness to implicitly recognize the Zionist entity. The PLO Paris office had denied the statements attributed to As-Sus.

FRANCE REPORTEDLY TO GIVE OFFICIAL DIPLOMATIC STATUS TO PLO

JN210851Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 21 December--Citing well-informed sources in Paris, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' reports that the French Government intends to raise the level of relations with the PLO and to give the PLO office in Paris official diplomatic status. The paper says that this step will be the first of its kind, since the PLO offices in Western Europe do not have official diplomatic status.

ARAB MEDIA REPORT, COMMENT ON OPEC OIL PRICE HIKE

JN201038 [Editorial Report JN] A review of monitored broadcasts by Amman, Damascus and Baghdad Domestic Services since 17 December indicates that all three radios have prominently reported OPEC's decision to raise oil prices. However, they have not commented on the subject.

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY and Baghdad INA have also fully reported the OPEC decision and the statements by UAE Petroleum Minister al-'Utaybah, Saudi Oil Minister Yamani, Iraqi Oil Minister 'Abd al-Karim and OPEC Secretary General Ortiz justifying the oil price raise.

Jordanian and Syrian papers scrutinized have published the decision on their front pages under banner headlines, but the only comment on the subject in the Arabic press appears in Damascus AL-BA'TH of 19 December.

In this article the paper blames the United States for losses suffered by the petroleum-exporting countries and described U.S. criticism of the oil price raise as sheer hypocrisy. The only way to stop the oil price spiral, the paper says, is for the two sides to peg oil prices to the prices of manufactured commodities and to exchange modern technology for crude oil, so that the petroleum-exporting countries will have an industrial base to depend on once oil reserves are depleted.

The JORDAN TIMES editorial on 20 December refers to "a predictable howl" and to "outrage in the United States, the world's most profligate consumer of oil". The paper goes on to classify U.S. reactions as ranging from "naive and ill-informed" to "a few breaths of fresh air". The editorial concludes by expressing hope that the Arab oil-producing countries will increase their foreign aid to less developed countries.

Gulf and Saudi media are reacting strongly to Western criticism of the price rise. An article in the Bahraini paper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, as reviewed by Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY at 0644 GMT on 18 December, says: "These criticisms, which we keep hearing after every OPEC decision to modify prices, are not objective and honest but reflect purely personal interests." The paper adds: "These critics say that the oil-price raise will lead to more inflation, but inflation continued even when OPEC froze prices 2 years ago. Therefore, the responsibility for inflation rests squarely on the Western industrial powers."

The UAE paper AL-ITTIHAD, as reviewed by Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY at 0600 GMT on 19 December, describes the Western industrial powers' criticism of the oil price raise as illogical. The paper asks: Have Western leaders found it opportune now to blame us for their own mistakes and economic crises? How can they deny us the natural right to address the collapse of the dollar, which has led to a 54-percent erosion of oil revenues during the past 2 years?

The UAE paper AL-FAJR, as reviewed by Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY at 0840 GMT on 20 December, says the campaign of criticism led by the United States against OPEC is associated with the U.S. "oil reserve" strategy that the United States is using as a weapon to achieve its political and economic objectives.

An article in the Bahraini paper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, as reviewed by Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY at 0830 GMT on 20 December, warns against the Western criticism campaign which, it says, conceals a desire by the Western power to continue with their inflationary policy and blame OPEC for it.

An article in the Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, as reviewed by Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY at 0900 GMT on 19 December, says: "The U.S. dollar is the cause of the losses, the inflation and the recent oil price rise approved by OPEC. Those who are claiming that the oil prices are the cause of inflation and unemployment are forgetting that their dollar is collapsing at such a rate that it is already devouring the slight raise approved by OPEC." Regarding the OPEC countries' decision to stick to the dollar, the paper says: "If these countries do not immediately look for a substitute to the dollar, they will remain victims of the United States in everything."

Saudi papers, as reviewed by Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY at 0830 GMT on 18 December, comment as follows:

AR-RIYAD: "The decision to raise the oil prices has come to express OPEC's unity, solidarity, deep awareness of the circumstances of the world economy, and complete understanding of the need for an equilibrium in world prices."

AL-BILAD: "The OPEC decision was not purely economic, because it took into consideration all the political circumstances which play a significant role in OPEC's decisionmaking and in defining OPEC's relations with the countries of the world. The organization is aware that by making such sacrifices it is expressing a desire that the countries of the world will cooperate in solving the outstanding problems that threaten world peace, especially the Middle East question."

AN-NADWAH: "The OPEC sacrifices must be reciprocated by similar sacrifices in order to address inflation, which is hurting OPEC and other peoples of the Third World."

AL-MADINA AL-MUNAWWARAH: "No economic or oil expert can claim that the approved oil price raise is unreasonable or harmful to the world economy."

An article in the Saudi paper AL-MADINAH AL-MUNAWWARAH, as reviewed by Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY at 0835 GMT on 20 December, criticizes the uproar created by the Western industrial powers over the oil price raise, describing it as emotional. The paper says: The OPEC decision was logical and is not harmful to the world economy.

BOARD CHAIRMAN OF ARAB INDUSTRIALIZATION AUTHORITY RESIGNS

LD201008Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0625 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh--His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defence and aviation and chairman of the higher committee of the Arab Industrialization Authority, has stated that the committee issued a decision on 13 December accepting the resignation of Dr Muhammad Ashraf Marwan from the post of chairman of the authority's board as of that date.

His royal highness, in a statement made [words indistinct] to SNA, said that the authority's higher committee issued a decision appointing Shaykh Faysal ibn Sultan al-Qasimi, member of the authority's board from the UAE, provisional chairman of the board of the Arab Industrialization Authority as of the date of acceptance of the resignation of the former chairman of the board. His royal highness stated that the higher committee of the Arab Industrialization Authority is to hold a meeting at the beginning of next week in Cairo.

VOP REPORTS RETALIATORY OPERATION IN JERUSALEM

JN210619Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 0500 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] A Palestinian military spokesman of the General Command of the Palestinian Revolution Forces has announced the following:

In reply to the brutal air raids of the Zionist fighter planes against the camps of our people in the steadfast south, which killed several old persons, women and children, and after 3 hours of the criminal Zionist raid, the unit of martyr Haj Hasan launched a heavy attack with hand grenades at a gathering point of enemy personnel in the vicinity of the flower gate in the center of the occupied city of Jerusalem. Our revolutionaries' attack resulted in killing or wounding some seven enemy personnel and damaging two vehicles. Immediately after this heroic operation of our Palestinian revolutionaries, the holy city was cordoned off and was subject to intensified security measures. Roadblocks were set up on many streets. The enemy forces arrested scores of Palestinian citizens. The unit was able to return safely to base.

[Signed] The General Command of the Palestinian Revolution Forces

BAHRAIN

INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES WARNED AGAINST ANTI-OPEC CAMPAIGNS

JN201159Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0835 GMT 20 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 20 December--The Manama daily AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ warned the industrial countries against irrational critical campaigns aimed at OPEC resolutions providing for a new increase in oil prices. The paper believes that those campaigns are not only arbitrary reactions but also are well-planned clamor.

In a commentary published here today, the paper explained that the industrial countries still seem determined to continue their current economic policy, which is counted as the main, directly responsible factor behind inflation and currency instability. Those countries, the paper added, are trying to deny this responsibility and consequently blame someone else for causing inflation. Specifically, those countries are trying to hold OPEC responsible.

The paper stated that the current reactions and clamor in the industrial countries are only a veil hiding the intention of those countries to raise prices of all production materials usually exported to the OPEC countries. The industrial countries are hence trying to indirectly restore the increase they have to pay for oil. The paper concluded by asserting that continuous inflation and economic instability would adversely affect oil revenues and thus seriously harm production of this fluid. Moreover, the OPEC countries will be forced to reconsider their policy in order to confront continuous inflation and the decline of the dollar.

KUWAIT

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: ISRAEL WILL NOT BECOME 'ANOTHER TAIWAN'

LD201613Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 18 Dec 78 pp 1, 19 LD

[Editorial: "Israel-Taiwan: A Different Story"]

[Excerpts] The thaw in Sino-U.S. relations since Dr Kissinger's visit and Nixon's later visit 4 years ago was bound to culminate in the decision announced by President Carter 2 days ago, namely the recognition of the PRC as China and the end of the strange relationship between the United States and the island of Taiwan.

In what way does this development concern us?

There is one point at which we would like to pause before the Arab theoreticians, who invented the theory that 99 percent of the cards are in the United States' hands, seize the opportunity to regard this gesture as new proof corroborating their theory. At this point we would like to ask the question that immediately comes to the fore: Is it possible, for example, that the United States will one day abandon Israel in the same way as it has abandoned Taiwan?

There is no doubt that in politics and where political interests are involved everything is possible. This is the great moral of the world's political history. But does this apply to Israel? In fact, such a question was asked in Israel as well as in other places when what is known as the Sino-U.S. "ping-pong" diplomacy began, that is, when a U.S. sports team was allowed to play in communist China. This questioning had died down in recent years, but it reappeared yesterday.

Therefore, will this U.S. decision apply to Israel, or will we witness such a possibility, at least in the foreseeable future?

For our part, we say no. This is because the principles on which the U.S. stand toward Israel is based are quite different from those which were the basis of relations between the United States and the island of the late Marshal Chiang Kai-shek. The United States embraced Taiwan when communist China was waging war directly or indirectly against the U.S. presence in the Far East in general and in Indochina in particular. We all recall the "festival" of Chinese warnings to the United States, which exceeded several hundred.

But now, following the exacerbation of the Sino-Soviet dispute and China's political about-face, it is no longer reasonable under any circumstances for the United States to continue to protect Taiwan. It was U.S. interests that imposed such protection before, and now it is the same interests that dictate exactly the opposite. Therefore, the marshal's island can go to hell.

But why shouldn't Israel go to the same hell in the light of U.S. interests with the Arabs?

Once again we say: The story is different. In the Middle East there is nothing to warrant this from the U.S. viewpoint, because here the United States has secured both this world and the world hereafter, if one can so put it. Therefore, why should it sell out one of them when it can win both?

It has secured from the Arabs its real interests in oil and money as well as many friendships. Simultaneously, it has secured Israel as a state dominating the area, thus further securing its own interests. Why should there be any change in its attitude toward Israel?

Of course, the United States will not change this stand as long as the Arabs and its interests with them are secured. Therefore, its position toward China cannot apply to Israel. Only a couple of days ago, when President Carter was allegedly "seething with anger" at Israel's refusal to accept the required amendments before the treaty with Egypt could be signed (yesterday), the same U.S. President was saying on television, and we quote: "Our policy with regard to Israel (and the Middle East) is that Israel's security is a supreme matter, and insuring the continued existence of Israel, its ability to protect itself adequately and the ability of the Israeli people to live in peace is far more important than anything else related to the Middle East..."

We believe that these words are very clear and very decisive, especially since they were spoken at a moment when it appeared to all non-Americans that Israel was defying the United States, refusing U.S. guardianship and discrediting Carter personally as the sponsor of the Camp David agreements.

It might be said that similar American words were spoken to the Taiwan Government and to the Chinese for whom the United States established a state on Taiwan, but with whom it then broke, abandoning them in the middle of the ocean.

We believe it is likely that those who have wagered on the United States, especially Cairo, will seek to exploit this U.S. incident in order to cover up their failure and arouse Arab hopes in the possibility of a similar change in the U.S. attitude toward Israel when the oppostunity arises, and even in order to give credence to the collapsing theory of the 99 percent of cards. But devils can never become angels. The Zionist presence in the United States is deep-rooted as well as strongly welded to U.S. interests. Therefore, it will remain, as Carter said, "the supreme matter" in the Middle East and in the U.S. perspective Israel will never be another Taiwan.

EEC'S APPROVAL OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PLAN NOTED

LD201852Y Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Kuwait--A senior Kuwaiti official said in Kuwait today that one of the most important results of the recent Arab European dialog was the EEC's approval of a proposal by the Arab (?countries) for the establishment of a joint center to arrange for technology transfer to the Arab world. The official is Muhammad Qasim as-Saddah, director of the Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who represented Kuwait at the meeting, held earlier this month in Damascus.

Following their dialog with the EEC, the Arab states will seek to convince its members of their views on to the Middle East crisis and to facilitate the transfer of advanced technology from Europe to the Arab world. As-Saddah said three capitals had been nominated to serve as the headquarters of this center--Amman, Beirut and Tunis.

SAUDI ARABIA

INDUSTRIAL STATES' REACTION TO OIL PRICE RISE 'ILLOGICAL'

JN201125Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0830 GMT 20 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 20 December--The Saudi paper AL-MADINA AL-MUNAWWARAH criticized the reactions and artificial clamor of the industrial countries following the new increase on oil prices. The paper said that those campaigns of clamor have taken a narrow view on this issue; therefore, the reactions have been emotional and illogical.

In a commentary published today the Saudi paper said that the OPEC countries were not the only ones who believed that the current increase is just and logical and would by no means harm the world economy. Moreover, the governor of the Central Bank of America has emphasized that the U.S. economy would be able to endure this new increase. The paper added that the OAPEC countries are playing an integral and very important role in supporting economic and development projects in countries of the Third World. The paper explained that the oil producing countries will be unable to continue supporting the Third World countries if they do not protect their oil income.

UAE

PRESIDENT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM MAURITANIAN COUNTERPART

JN201613Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1235 GMT 20 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 20 December--UAE President His Holiness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Muhayyan received a message today from Mauritanian President Col Mustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck. The message was conveyed this morning to the chief of the president's court, Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad, when he received the Mauritanian minister of control and investigation, Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Louly, who is currently visiting the UAE.

In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY correspondent, Louly explained that the message deals with bilateral relations, Arab issues and the situation in the Arab Maghreb in particular. He added that he has briefed UAE officials on current problems in Mauritania, particularly in the fields of education and health.

FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMENTS ON ISRAELI AIR STRIKE

NC2020222Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Commenting on the air attack launched by Israel this afternoon against the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, an official source at the Foreign Ministry has said that these aggressive actions are contrary to the spirit and provisions of the Camp David accords and constitute a threat to the current peace process. The source added that while denouncing this aggression, Egypt affirms that Israel will not succeed by these coercive actions in hiding its obvious intransigence toward the sincere efforts that Egypt is exerting for the sake of reaching a just, comprehensive and permanent solution in the Middle East.

CAIRO REPORTS ON VANCE, KHALIL, DAYAN MEETING

NC2107302Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Dec 78 NC

[Text] The United States has announced that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will meet with Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan in Brussels in order to discuss the question of the resumption of the peace talks at the invitation of Vance. This came in an official statement issued in Washington last night.

U.S. State Department spokesman Tom Reston said that Vance will meet with Dr Mustafa Khalil and Dayan Sunday to discuss the resumption of the peace talks between Egypt and Israel without prior conditions. Reston said that the meeting will be held after Vance concludes his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko in Geneva on the limitation of strategic weapons.

A responsible source told MENA that Cyrus Vance yesterday morning contacted Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil through U.S. Ambassador Hermann Eilts and conveyed to him Vance's invitation to attend a meeting in Brussels Sunday among Dr Khalil, Vance and Israeli Foreign Minister Dayan.

MENA has learned that Dr Mustafa Khalil contacted President Anwar as-Sadat and consulted with him on this invitation. MENA also learned that Egypt agreed to attend the meeting. Dr Mustafa Khalil is scheduled to leave Cairo for Brussels tomorrow.

AS-SADAT ON PEACE TALK PROSPECTS, NATIONAL AFFAIRS

NC2022072Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 20 Dec 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat met this evening in Al-Mansurah with the National Democratic Party leaders and the People's Assembly members for Ad-Daqahliyah Governorate.

At the meeting President as-Sadat spoke about the requirements of national action in the coming stage and the transfer of the powers of the president to the governors. He announced that three main missions are facing Egypt now: they are the building of peace; the building of democracy; and the building of prosperity.

Concerning peace, the president announced that sooner or later a time will come when Israel will sign the peace treaty. He said that the Camp David agreement has defined everything and everything has become clear now. He added that there are two basic principles--the need for a comprehensive solution of all aspects of the Palestinian problem and the need for a link among withdrawal from Sinai, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He said that we will not give any privileges to Israel, which will be treated like the other states with which we have dealings, if the agreement is signed.

President as-Sadat praised the efforts being made by U.S. President Carter and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. He described President Carter as honest and a man of principle. The president said that it was necessary for us to take the initiative for our cause in our own hands because the world does not respect he who shifts his burden onto others. He said that our stand during the initiative and during the Camp David conference was sound and today it is more sound.

Concerning democracy, President as-Sadat said that our mission is to entrench democracy with its broad civilized concept, not with the concept bequeathed from the pre-revolution era. He said that this depends on sound party life in which we all cooperate--the National Democratic Party, the Socialist Labor Party and any other parties that want to join sincere party action.

Concerning prosperity, President as-Sadat said that Egypt with its vast potential can fulfill the needs of its citizens. We only need serious and honest work to put Egypt on the road to prosperity.

GHALI MEETS ASIAN ENVOYS, DISCUSSES SITUATION

NC202315Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2117 GMT 20 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 20 December--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has affirmed that Egypt's insistence on the need to link the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement with the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is a principled stand. This stand was announced by Egypt at the start of the talks on 14 October and was reaffirmed during all stages of the talks.

At a meeting this evening with Asian states ambassadors in Cairo, Dr Ghali reviewed the recent developments in the Middle East, the current status of the peace talks and the reasons for their suspension. Dr Ghali refuted current Israeli allegations that Egypt has submitted new proposals. He said that these allegations run counter to facts. The linkage question was submitted at the start of the talks and the Israeli delegation participated in discussing it and redrafting formulas for it until Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin suddenly changed the situation and went back on what his Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan had already agreed to.

Dr Ghali added that the linkage question between the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and serious progress toward solving the Palestinian problem has been constantly affirmed by Egypt before, during and after the Camp David meeting. It is also the main topic which occupied most of the time at the Blair House talks in Washington. This is proved by dates and official documents as follows:

1. The Egyptian delegation and U.S. President Jimmy Carter discussed this subject during their first meeting on the evening of 11 October and on 12 October. The subject was also discussed during five meetings which President Carter held with the Egyptian delegation or jointly with the Egyptian and Israeli delegations.

2. On 13 October 1978, the second day of the talks, the Egyptian delegation submitted amendments to the draft treaty, containing several points. Foremost of these points is that the Egyptian-Israeli treaty is an integral part of the comprehensive settlement. They also included a pledge to solve all aspects of the Palestinian problem.

The preamble to the treaty--in the various stages of its preparation during the process of negotiations--clearly indicated such a link with a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, and Israel agreed to these drafts of the preamble.

3. On 14 October 1978, the Egyptian delegation submitted a note to the U.S. side containing the measures which Egypt wants Israel to carry out in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Egyptian delegation submitted this note as part of the Egyptian-Israeli talks and to reaffirm the linkage question.

4. The timetable requested by Egypt for the steps toward solving the Palestinian problem was the subject of a series of drafts of proposed exchanged letters. Egypt submitted a draft of such a letter on 19 October. The U.S. side participated in discussing this draft and submitting alternative drafts as follows:

A) An Egyptian draft of the letter on 19 October.

B) The U.S. side submitted an alternative draft to that letter on 21 October 1978. President Carter personally handed this draft to the Egyptian delegation.

C) The Egyptian delegation submitted another draft of the letter on 23 October. The U.S. side introduced amendments to this draft on 25 October 1978.

D) On 30 October the Israeli side submitted a proposed draft of a letter to be exchanged on the linkage question and movement toward the establishment of Palestinian authority.

E) On 31 October the U.S. side submitted to the Egyptian and Israeli delegations at a general meeting at Blair House a draft of the letter containing a timetable for such movement.

F) On 2 November Israel submitted a new draft which included amendment to its draft proposal of 30 October and [word indistinct] from its discussion of the issue between Mr Vance and Mr Begin on 2 November in New York. The Israeli prime minister retreated from what had been accepted by Mr Dayan.

G) The U.S side submitted on 11 November a new text of the letter and it also submitted another one on 12 November. The U.S. draft agreed with the Egyptian stand on the timing to begin the talks and the holding of the elections for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

H) Egypt then submitted two drafts, one on 17 November and the other on 11 November in which the Egyptian attitude was in line with that of the American. This was rejected by the Israeli prime minister on 15 December.

Regarding Article VI of the draft peace agreement Dr Butrus Ghali said that Israel tried to take this article outside the established foundations of international law. This made the United States and Egypt agree on the need to make a clear interpretation of it in agreement with legal foundations and with the fact that Egypt's Arab obligations go beyond any agreements or treaties because they are national obligations that stem from the unity of belonging to one nation and the unity of fate. There are no new additions to this interpretation.

Dr Ghali commented on the Knesset decision yesterday, Tuesday, (?and statements there that Israel will make) sacrifices for peace but it cannot accept proposals that endanger Israel's security. He said that Israel has not been assked to make any sacrifices or concessions; it has been asked to adhere to the UN Charter, its resolutions and the principles of international law concerning the inadmissability of occupying other people's land and the right of peoples to self-determination.

Dr Ghali explained that Egypt has been eager at all times to achieve a comprehensive settlement which insures the security of everyone, including Israel.

He said Egypt's proposals do not endanger Israel's security, and the proof is that the United States, "which has always declared its concern for Israel's security and its obligations toward it agreed to them. The truth of the matter is that the Egyptian attitude is aimed at not allowing Israel to threaten the security of any Arab state.

Dr Ghali said that Egypt is determined to proceed toward the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. Dr Ghali expressed the confidence of Egypt that the world will not allow Israel's maneuvers to hinder the achievement of this noble objective and it will not bedeceived by the attempts by Israeli officials to conceal their negative attitude toward the peace efforts by means of statements which do not agree with the reality recorded in official documents during the various states of the talks.

Dr Ghali repeated his confirmation that Egypt refuses to sign any peace agreement with Israel unless this agreement is complemented by an agreement which includes a time-table for the establishment of self-rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and which will be an indivisible part of the peace agreement.

The ambassadors of the Asian group confirmed during their meeting with Dr Ghali their countries' support for Egypt's attitude at the peace talks and the Egyptian efforts aimed at the achievement of a comprehensive, lasting and just peace in the Middle East.

The ambassadors of Sri Lanka described the meeting with Dr Ghali as "a very fruitful and useful meeting." He expressed his country's hope that peace be achieved in the Middle East in accordance with UN resolutions concerning the Middle East, the Palestine problem and also nonalined resolutions which all confirm the principles Egypt is now striving to achieve and they are the establishment of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. He added that the nonalined are ready to provide all possible assistance to achieve peace in the Middle East within this framework.

The meeting of Dr Ghali with the Asian ambassadors was attended by Ahmad Tawfiq Khalil, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, and Ambassador 'Umar Ashraf, director of the Asian Department at the Foreign Ministry. Tomorrow Dr Ghali will receive African ambassadors in Cairo, thus continuing his concentrated contacts with ambassadors and representatives of states in Cairo to explain developments in the Middle East and the causes for halting the Egyptian-Israeli peace talks.

PRIME MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

NC202115Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Dec 78 NC

[Interview granted to BBC by Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil--date and place not given]

[Text] [Question] Your Excellency Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil: In the midst of recent events, what will be the nature of the upcoming step in the complicated peace process?

[Answer] I believe that the peace process is not as complicated as you say, because agreement was reached at Camp David on basic principles, and an agreement on the treaty was also reached. There were, however, basic points of difference on some of the provisions of the treaty. Egypt, in response to the need for a peace treaty to be signed by 17 December, agreed that explanations should be made to the points over which there were differences--explanations that should be acceptable to both sides and completely compatible with the spirit and provisions of the Camp David agreement. The U.S. and Egyptian sides agreed on the explanations sent to Israel, but regrettably the Israeli Government, as has become obvious, refused to accept these explanations. Regarding the other part--the need for linkage between the Egyptian-Israeli agreement and a comprehensive solution whereby self-government will be established on the West Bank and Gaza--a plan has been submitted to them. This plan was agreed on by the Egyptian and U.S. sides. I believe that the U.S. side was neutral on this subject. I believe that if there were good intentions on all sides, it could have been signed without delay. Therefore, I believe that on the basis of its eagerness for peace to be established, the Israeli Government should respond to the proposals submitted because the peace process itself is a continuous process--a process that might cause the apprehension of some at present, but the continuity of the peace process is necessary because it will remove tension from the area and solve the Palestinian problem in the future, God willing.

[Question] Since Israel has rejected the Egyptian-U.S. proposals, is the question now worth risking the convening of a new summit conference among Egypt, Israel and the United States?

[Answer] This is a question that has naturally been left for the leaders to decide. If it is found that it would be useful to convene such a meeting, then I do not believe the leaders would hesitate to do so. However, if convening the meeting would aggravate differences, there is no need to convene such a meeting.

[Question] Some people have been saying that the failure to achieve the signing of a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel unequivocally proves that the Camp David summit did not constitute a sound basis for negotiations in the Middle East.

[Answer] This view is wrong at its very foundation, because any negotiations are bound to meet with difficulties. Otherwise, the two sides would have not met to negotiate. Whoever says that Camp David was not a sound formula should please come and tell us of another formula which he proposes.

[Question] Voices were raised at the UN General Assembly recently calling for the resumption of the Geneva conference. Do you think Geneva can save what could be saved?

[Answer] I believe that we went beyond the Geneva conference phase a long time ago and that as the leaders have already said, 95 percent of the agreement has been achieved and the remaining 5 percent does not require a step backward to the Geneva conference, as I have said.

[Question] Your expectations for 1979? Is a peace treaty possible? Regarding the Arab position, the domestic position and the party experiment?

[Answer] This is a long question. Regarding the position of the peace treaty, I hope that it will be achieved, as I have said, if there are good intentions and we adhere to the Camp David accords. In relation to the Arab position, I hope that the other Arab states will not prejudge matters about which agreement has not been reached. Egypt is very eager to solve the Palestinian problem. As we have said, we are not working for a separate solution because a separate solution will not establish peace. Moreover, we have defended and are still defending the rights of the Palestinian people. The formula we have proposed guarantees this right.

Regarding the domestic position, the new democratic phase is a democratic phase in the full sense of the word. The government, for example, did not issue a statement until the party was consulted; none of the ministers has issued his statement at the People's Assembly so far; they have debated the draft statement with the party committees so that the government's program would completely express the party wishes. This is the first time in the history of Egypt such a democratic tradition has been followed. The government does not issue orders; all its actions and programs emanate from the broad base of the National Democratic Party.

[Question] Some are apprehensive that the Socialist Labor Party, the opposition party, will become a tame opposition party? What is your reply to this?

[Answer] I do not believe that this will happen because there is no such thing as a tame or a wild opposition. The opposition must be objective. This means that if we propose any policy, action program or bill and the opposition has a different view or an alternative, then we would be completely ready to hear the view of the opposition and to consider it if it serves the interest of the country. Therefore I do not believe that there is a tame opposition; on the contrary. However, speaking about resisting deviation and dereliction of duty, I believe that it would be my duty to deal with this, not that of the opposition.

[Question] Your Excellency Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, thank you very much for this interview.

[Answer] Thank you.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR LIBERATED SINAI REPORTED

LD201215Y Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 16 Dec 78 p 14 LD

[Text] Minister of Development and New Communities Hasaballah al-Kafrawi has stated that the plan to develop Sinai's northern and southern provinces will be implemented in two stages; the first immediately and the second over 5 years. The cost of the first stage is 270 million pounds and the second, which will begin following the total liberation of Sinai, will cost 580 million pounds.

The immediate plans aim at cultivating 30,000 feddans in the central plain, building four railroad lines to connect all areas of the two provinces with the Nile Valley, the construction of provisional power stations and the surfacing of main roads.

The 5-year second-stage plan provides for the cultivation of 130,000 feddans in the northern plain. Egyptian and international efforts and expertise have been organized to implement both the immediate and the long-term plan so that implementation will begin as soon as Israel withdraws. Implementation of the plan will also be undertaken by independent bodies unrestricted by bureaucracy. These units will exploit Sinai's minerals and raw materials such as manganese, coal, gypsum, kaolin and cement to be used in building and construction projects.

Initially the plan will seek to provide water and electricity to the northern area. A 600-mm water pipeline will be installed from Al-Qantarah Sharq to Al-Hizbah village--the most distant village liberated so far--in the next few days. The pipeline will be one of the mainstays of reconstructing and developing the area. At the next stage the pipeline, which carries water from the Nile, will be extended to Al-'Arish.

The Sinai Governorate has drawn up a complete report regarding its views on the immediate and the 5-year plans for the reconstruction and development of Sinai as well as a survey of mining potential, petroleum resources, subterranean waters and lands suitable for farming.

DEFENSE MINISTER AFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA

LD202344Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Cairo--Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, minister of defense and war production, has affirmed Egypt's stand on the side of the sister country, Somalia, and all the liberation movements in the Arab world and Africa. It is motivated in this by its nationalist, Arab and African responsibilities, responsibilities that have been entrenched over the years by ties of blood, neighborhood and religion.

General 'Ali, who spoke at a banquet this evening in honor of General Mohamed Ali Samantar, first vice president and defense minister of Somalia, added that Egypt would spare no effort in shouldering its responsibilities, believing in common destiny and objectives and in the fact that the brothers in Somalia are defending the Arab nation in their region.

The minister of defense saluted Presidents as-Sadat and Siad Barre, who are leading their peoples toward progress, freedom and prosperity.

General Samantar delivered a speech at the beginning of the banquet in which he praised the support given by Egypt to Somalia in its struggle to preserve its independence. Samantar spoke about the imperialist plots to which his country has been subjected, and denounced the actions to which Somalia is being exposed at the hands of the Soviet Union, which is providing aid to Ethiopia.

The banquet was attended by senior Egyptian officers, directors of the military academies and the Somali ambassador and military attache.

OFFICIAL PROTEST TO EGYPT OVER 'ARREST' OF DIPLOMAT

JN2014202Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 20 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 20 December--The Iraqi Foreign Ministry has sent a strongly worded memo to the Egyptian Government protesting the arrest on 15 December of Sa'dun Hasan Za'run ad-Dayni, official at the section looking after Iraqi interests in Cairo.

In a statement issued today, the ministry demanded the release of the aforementioned official and his return to Iraq immediately.

The ministry refuted the allegations of the Egyptian authorities that Ad-Dayni and his family have requested the Egyptian authorities to grant them political asylum and that the Egyptian authorities have responded to their request.

The ministry affirmed that the competent Iraqi authorities have unequivocal evidence indicating that the Iraqi official was forced by torture to ask for political asylum, thus contradicting international laws and norms and the normal relations between the sons of the Arab people in both Egypt and Iraq.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry statement points out that the branch looking after Iraqi interests has inquired about the fate of the aforementioned official, but the Egyptian authorities have denied any knowledge of his whereabouts.

The statement adds that the Iraqi Foreign Ministry summoned the director of the section looking after Egyptian interests in the Saudi Embassy in Baghdad and asked him to inform the Egyptian authorities that they should release the Iraqi official within 24 hours. The statement asserts that the Iraqi authorities were surprised when advised that the official had sought political asylum.

The statement asserts that the Iraqi authorities have unequivocal evidence indicating that the aforementioned official was forced by torture to ask for political asylum and that this is a premeditated measure by the Egyptian security organs. This, the statement adds, contradicts international laws and norms and has prompted the Iraqi authorities to send a strongly worded memo to the Egyptian Government, via the section looking after Egyptian interests in Baghdad, denouncing this procedure.

'Abd al-Jabbar 'Umar ad-Duri, director of the section looking after Iraqi interests in Cairo, held a press conference in Cairo today and cast doubts on the statement made by the Egyptian official spokesman alleging that Sa'dun Hasan Za'run Ad-Dayni had asked for political asylum in Egypt.

The director of the Iraqi section has noted that Egyptian television aired an interview with Ad-Dayni, who showed signs of physical torture on his face and did not act normal. This shows that he was forced to make his statement. The director of the Iraqi section said that the allegations of the Egyptian official spokesman contradict the statements made by the Egyptian officials in the Foreign and Interior Ministries and state security to the section looking after Iraqi interests in Cairo. He pointed out that these officials said they had no information on the whereabouts of Ad-Dayni.

Ad-Duri said that the Egyptian officials had asserted that they were exerting strenuous efforts to find the motives behind the disappearance of the Iraqi official. The Egyptian officials had also told the Iraqi section that they were contacting all hospitals and police stations.

Ad-Duri asks why the Egyptian authorities concealed the official's request for political asylum when the Egyptian spokesman said that the Iraqi official had asked for political asylum last Friday. He also asks why the Egyptian police and security men encircled the Iraqi official's house the day before yesterday? Why did they take his wife and two sons to an unknown destination and why did they prevent the director of the section from meeting him?

He added that what draws attention is the request that was made by the state security intelligence asking his wife to give them a picture for her husband--and it was the same picture published in the Egyptian press--at a time when the Egyptian Interior Ministry denied any knowledge of his whereabouts and claimed that it was looking for him. All this contradicts the official spokesman's allegations.

'Abd al-Jabbar ad-Duri met with Egyptian Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sa'd 'Afrah yesterday at the Egyptian official's request. The Iraqi official asked 'Afrah to guarantee the protection of all Iraqi diplomats, particularly their families. He added that if the Egyptian Government cannot provide protection to the diplomats and their families, "we will be compelled to send the officials' families to Iraq."

He asserted that the Iraqi section looking after Iraqi interests has firm instructions stressing the need for all its diplomats to abide by all Egyptian laws and regulations. These diplomats are also instructed to behave in a manner reflecting the ethics of the Arab citizen in Iraq.

He reiterated that the Iraqi officials are actually committed to these instructions and information and are practicing the minimum diplomatic activities so as to avoid any misunderstandings. Despite all this, we have the Iraqi official's case.

Ad-Duri asked to see the Iraqi official or his family personally and to allow them to return to Iraq. The Egyptian official pledged to look into the request.

AL-BAKR SENDS MESSAGE TO PALESTINIAN STUDENTS

JN191619Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 19 December--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has reiterated that all progressive Arab strugglers and their allies in the world must continue the struggle for the sake of aborting the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary designs. This, President al-Bakr added, can be achieved by intensifying the ties of the joint Arab struggle and by marshalling our people's potentials toward achieving their historic objectives.

This was contained in President al-Bakr's message to the Eighth Congress of the General Federation of Palestinian Students which began its work in Beirut last night. The message was read on behalf of President al-Bakr by deputy chairman of Iraq's students federations Fahd ash-Shakrah. President al-Bakr said: The Joint National Action Charter between Iraq and Syria constitutes a mainstay and springboard vis-a-vis the temporary collapse that ensued from As-Sadat's visit to occupied Palestine and his signing of the ill-omened Camp David agreements.

The following is the text of President al-Bakr's message:

I am very pleased to convey to you through this message the greetings of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Iraqi Government and people and my own greetings to all the Palestinian students inside and outside the occupied territories. I wish you all continued success and progress along the road of consolidating your scientific and struggle potentials, liberating all Palestinian soil, and regaining the Palestinian people's right to determine their future and build their independent state.

Dear brothers, the Palestinian cause is passing through a serious and critical turning point as a result of President as-Sadat's visit to occupied Palestine and the subsequent agreements, particularly those of the treasonous Camp David agreements. The Camp David agreements constitute a clear, frank relinquishment of our nation's historic rights in Palestine and a humiliating concession in favor of the advocates of expansion and usurpation represented in the Zionist entity and world imperialism. These agreements definitely cannot resolve our just cause in Palestine because in as much as these agreements constitute a relinquishment of our nation's historic rights, no Arab ruler is entitled to authorize himself to determine the fate and existence of our Arab nation.

Imperialists, Zionists and hirelings believe that they are capable of defining the course of the Arab struggle and its objectives, pretending to forget the potential of our people and their vanguard forces as well as their sacrifices and bravery. They also forget that our people are indifferent toward the ways of repression and deception pursued by imperialism.

Right and victory are on our side because our cause is just. All progressive Arab strugglers and their allies in the world must continue the struggle for the sake of aborting the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary designs. This can be achieved by intensifying the ties of the joint Arab struggle and by marshalling our people's potential toward achieving their historic objectives. The Joint National Action Charter between the two fraternal countries--Iraq and Syria--constitutes a mainstay and springboard vis-a-vis the temporary collapse that ensued from As-Sadat's visit to occupied Palestine and his signing of the ill-omened Camp David agreements. What reinforces this positive trend is the fruitful outcome of the ninth Arab summit conference in Baghdad.

Dear brothers, since the revolutionary confrontation is being escalated by the progressive Arab regimes, the Arab revolutionary movement's forces represented in their political parties and organizations, and the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, you, the new generation, must perform the task of intensifying the struggle. The Arab nation depends on you to create strong pillars toward achieving victory. The role of the Palestinian students inside and outside the occupied territories is to defend the Arab nation's dignity and rights. The students' struggle enjoys the appreciation and concern of all the progressive strugglers in our Arab homeland.

The 17 July revolution in Iraq will remain as it has always been, placing all its potential and resources to insure victory over the enemies of our nation.

Dear brothers, I take this opportunity anew to greet your eighth congress and to greet all Palestinian students everywhere. I am fully confident that the eighth congress of your federation will add a new impetus to the Arab struggle.

KING HUSAYN MEETS WITH BRITAIN'S CALLAGHAN IN LONDON

JN210607Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and British Prime Minister James Callaghan held a session of official talks at the prime minister's office last night. The Jordanian and British sides reviewed issues of interest to the two countries, particularly the Middle East issue. His majesty briefed Prime Minister Callaghan on his assessment of the current situation and his view of the area's future. His majesty also explained the basic elements of the Jordanian position regarding the achievement of just, durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. His majesty also explained the results of his talks during his current tour of several European countries with French President Giscard d'Estaing, His Holiness Pope John Paul II, and Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. The two sides also discussed Jordanian-British relations and prospects of developing bilateral cooperation.

The talks were attended by Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf and several high-ranking members of the delegation accompanying his majesty.

Prime Minister and Mrs James Callaghan gave a dinner banquet at the prime minister's headquarters yesterday evening in honor of His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur. The banquet was attended by several members of the Jordanian delegation and by high-ranking British officials.

PRIME MINISTER AGAIN RECEIVES PLO DELEGATION

JN202019Y Amman Domestic Television Service in English 2000 GMT 20 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran this evening received the Palestine Liberation Organization delegation headed by Hamid Abu Sittah, member of the Executive Committee of the PLO.

During the meeting they discussed relations between Jordan and the PLO and the best means to support steadfastness of Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Information 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah and chairman of the executive bureau of the occupied territories.

In the afternoon, Minister Abu 'Awdah and the PLO delegation held the final round of talks, which has started 4 days ago, during which they reached an agreement on joint action in support of Arab citizens in Israeli-occupied territories.

TALKS ON TRADE RELATIONS HELD WITH IRAQI DELEGATION

JN201845Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpt] A meeting was held today at the Ministry of Industry and Trade during which trade relations between Iraq and Jordan were discussed, as well as ways to develop and strengthen bilateral trade exchanges. The Jordanian side at the meeting was headed by Dr Najm ad-Din ad-Dajani, minister of industry and trade. The Iraqi side was headed by Sa'd 'Abd al-Hadi, director general of the Iraqi consumer establishment. The two sides also discussed Iraq's requirements for Jordanian goods and products. The members of the Iraqi delegation were briefed by Dr ad'Dajani on Jordan's economic and industrial progress and the new industrial trend, based on encouraging intermediate industries considered complementary to industries of nearby Arab countries.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS ISRAELI AIR ATTACK ON S. LEBANON

NC2016402 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1628 GMT 20 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Villages in the Tyre area were subjected to an Israeli air attack at 1600 [1400 GMT] today. An Israeli military spokesman announced that warplanes attacked fedayeen bases in the border area.

According to reports available to Voice of Lebanon, there are losses of life, but the number is not known yet. The attack covered the villages of 'Adlun, [name indistinct], Al-Burghuliyah, Al-Qasimiyah and Burj ash-Shamali, where there are fedayeen bases.

Observers believe that this raid is in retaliation for the recent bomb explosion in Jerusalem. Some fedayeen organizations had claimed responsibility for the incident.

Casualties Reported

NC2017402 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1735 GMT 20 Dec 78 NC

[Text] According to initial reports, 3 people were killed and 11 were wounded in the Israeli air attack on some villages in the Tyre area.

ISRAELI ARTILLERY SHELLS SOUTHERN LEBANON 21 DEC

JN2108052 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 21 December--Since 0830 today, the town of An-Nabatiyah has been the target of a Zionist heavy artillery bombardment.

The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that the target of the bombardment is the town's garrison. The bombardment was continuing at 0900 hours today. The correspondent says that information about the losses is still uncertain.

The bombardment of An-Nabatiyah, which is about 15 km from the border of occupied Palestine, comes less than 15 hours after the raids by Zionist enemy aircraft against the southern Lebanese camps and villages yesterday afternoon.

The INA correspondent reports that enemy naval gunboats at dawn today tried to approach the coastal city of Sidon but were forced to retreat after the joint forces opened artillery fire on them.

Sources of the Palestinian resistance have said the bombardment of An-Nabatiyah has extended to the nearby Ar-Rayhaniyah area and that the bombardment continued intermittently until noon today.

The sources said that the Al-'Urqub area in the eastern sector, particularly Zaghlah and Hasbayya, is also the target of similar bombardment by heavy artillery from the Zionist settlement of Metulla and the towns of Al-Khuraybah and Al-'Abbasiyah, which are controlled by the rightwing militia.

The Palestinian sources said that communiques will be issued later on the military situation in the southern area. A military spokesman for the Popular Front of the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has declared that the artillery of the Zionist enemy, as well as his tanks which carry the flag of agent Sa'd Haddad, has since early morning been carrying out a concentrated and intensive bombardment of the Al-'Urqub area and the villages extending from Fliya to Al-Haswani.

The spokesman said that the enemy carried out a similar bombardment of the areas of An-Nabatiyah and Sarafand. The artillery of the joint forces returned the bombardment.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] official spokesman said that the escalation of the bombardment and aggression against the civilian targets in southern Lebanon comes at a stage when the plotting against the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement is escalating.

The spokesman said that by striking at civilian targets in southern Lebanon, the enemy is trying to conceal what is taking place in occupied Palestine, particularly that the uprising of our Palestinian masses has surpassed enemy expectations and showed the whole world that the Palestinian masses reject the Camp David agreements and the autonomy plan.

The spokesman affirmed that the enemy is trying to conceal the wide-scale escalation of the revolutionary operations against his forces and establishments in the occupied areas.

The spokesman emphasized that the operations of the revolutionaries in occupied Palestine against the enemy targets and installations--operations that have escalated in the last few months--will continue to escalate regardless of enemy intensification of the barbaric bombardment of civilian targets.

The PFLP spokesman described the enemy claims that those who carry out these operations use southern Lebanon as a staging point in an abortive attempt to conceal the truth, and the truth is that "our masses in the West Bank, the Gaza sector, Galilee, and the triangle are organizing their ranks and dealing blows to the enemy and to his establishments."

The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that the artillery bombardment of An-Nabatiyah town and its suburbs stopped at 1230 today.

The correspondent reports that fires are still ablaze in several quarters that were the target of the shelling and that preliminary estimates indicate that there are at least 10 casualties and that three wounded persons were transported to the hospitals of Sidon city.

The INA correspondent adds that the bombardment of Al-'Urqub area has led, as official security reports indicate, to the killing of at least one person and the wounding of 14 others.

The INA correspondent says that the enemy has been active in the airspace of the border area following the bombardment operations. Enemy reconnaisance planes flew over the southern Lebanese towns of the border strip up to the coastal city of Sidon.

Further Report

NC21092Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 21 Dec 78 NC

[Text] According to reports received a short while ago, there was sporadic firing this morning in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Ash-Shiyah. Explosions were reported last night. All axes in the southern outskirts are now being subjected to intense sniper fire, particularly the At-Tahwitah-Furn ash-Shubbak area. Citizens should take the necessary precautions.

Reports from northern Lebanon this morning say that gunmen belonging to the Al-Maradah brigade have ambushed a car on the (Shibtin) Road, wounding one citizen. The occupants of the car returned the fire wounding one gunman.

There has been a wave of indignation and condemnation of these acts of aggression against the citizens of Al-Batrun area. The citizens are demanding an end to such acts of aggression on lives and property.

AL-HUSS DENOUNCES ISRAELI AIR RAIDS

NC210706Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpts] The aggression which Israel perpetrated yesterday afternoon against three positions in southern Lebanon raised a wave of Arab and international condemnation.

The three air raids launched by the Israeli Air Force with support from naval boats resulted in the death of at least two persons, the wounding of 11 persons and the destruction of a number of houses.

Prime Minister Salim al-Huss has denounced the aggression, saying: while Lebanon, in cooperation with the United Nations and its forces, seeks to repel the excessive Israeli aggression against Lebanese territory in the south, this treacherous military aggression, which is absolutely unjustifiable, again illustrates the fact that Israel is blatantly challenging international will and all values, principles and norms. Israel has also inflicted new wounds on Lebanon.

This action is to be denounced. Furthermore, conscientious people cannot condone it.

PLOT AGAINST ARAB EMBASSY IN BEIRUT REPORTED

NC201630Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 20 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpt] Today, joint patrols of the internal security forces and the Arab Deterrent Forces started making the rounds of the capital's main roads. These patrols have also started pursuing those who are suspected of stealing cars, particularly in places which are liable to serve as hiding places for those stolen cars. It has been decided to increase these patrols in areas which have recently been the scene of attacks, looting and burglary.

On the other hand, Lebanese security circles have revealed a plot hatched by non-Lebanese elements to commit an act of armed aggression against one of the Arab embassies in Beirut, and to loot its property and steal its cars. This act was intended to express the indignation of those non-Lebanese elements against the policies of that Arab embassy on the Lebanese and Arab levels.

AL-ASAD REVIEWS MIDEAST SITUATION WITH CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION

JN201750Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Dec 78 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad at 1215 today received the delegation of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee led by Vasil Bilak, member of the Presidium of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and secretary of the party Central Committee.

The meeting was attended by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the Czechoslovak ambassador in Damascus.

The discussion dealt with strengthening cooperation between the two countries, developments in the situation in the Middle East conflict and international issues of mutual interest. Comrade Bilak conveyed to President al-Asad the greetings of Comrade Gustav Husak, general secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and president of the republic. Bilak then explained Czechoslovakia's principled stand on Middle East developments and stressed that the Camp David agreements are part of a conspiracy hostile to the Arabs and that they will not lead to the desired just peace in the area. Bilak also expressed Czechoslovakia's sincere desire to cooperate with Syria.

President al-Asad welcomed the delegation and asked Comrade Bilak to convey his greetings to Comrade Husak and the Czechoslovak people. In his speech President al-Asad stressed the steadfastness of the Arab nation and Syria's determination to continue the struggle to foil the schemes aimed at containing the area within the circle of policy hostile to our nation.

During the meeting, the two sides stressed the importance of the meetings between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Czechoslovak Communist Party and between the leaders of the two countries.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD RECEIVES LEBANON'S ROBERT FRANJIYAH

JN191236Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--President Hafiz al-Asad today received Robert Franjiyah, son of former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah. President al-Asad and Robert Franjiyah discussed recent developments in Lebanon.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES LEBANESE NATIONALIST DELEGATION

JN201550Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1345 GMT 20 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 20 Dec--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam at noon today received a delegation from the Lebanese nationalist movement. The delegation is made up of Mustafa Sa'd, Suhayl Hammad, Hasan al-Qawami, Sa'id Wahbah and Hazim Hamadah.

Foreign Minister Khaddam and members of the delegation discussed the general situation in fraternal Lebanon.

ALGERIA

FURTHER DETAILS OF MOROCCAN PLANE INCIDENT REPORTED

LD210020Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] This evening details were revealed concerning the attack on the national security instigated by Rabat. The investigation underway by the security services has made it possible to establish that the Hercules C-130 airplane which dropped arms and explosives by parachute (?1.5 kms) south of Cap Sigli on the night of 10-11 December 1978 bears the registration CNAOA. Its crew was under the command of Major (Lemzuri).

In addition, the organizers of the parachute drop are now known, after having been positively identified Col Ahmed Harshi, from Tetouan, is aged 42. His military career includes graduation from the (Mohammed V), class of 1956 at St Cyr in Coetquidan, a posting to the General Directorate for Research and Documentation of the Moroccan Secret Services in 1973, and appointment as deputy military attache in (?Nice) in 1974. In 1975 he was with Colonel Dlimi during the invasion of Western Sahara by the monarchist troops and was appointed military attache at the Moroccan Embassy in Cairo.

As for Lt Col Husni Mustafa, he has special responsibilities at the Directorate for Anti-Algerian Operations. He is the one who met Bin Yahya Muhammad as-Sadiq, in Morocco and France.

LIBYA

JANA REPORTS ON CLOSING SESSION OF GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS

LD210655Y Tripoli JANA in English 1424 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Dec 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The General People's Congress held its closing session today at 10 a.m. in the people's hall in Tripoli.

At the start of the session, the secretary-general of the General People's Congress announced the return of Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis from a short visit to Algiers to enquire about the health of President Houari Boumedienne.

"He is conveying to you the greetings of the Algerian people and the Revolutionary Command Council."

"Abu Ammar is also back after a short visit to Algeria," said the secretary-general of the congress. Then he gave the floor to the secretary of the People's Congress in Sidney, Australia. The latter started by greeting the Libyan Arab people and stressed that all the traditional ruling systems had collapsed following the establishment of the people's power.

He commended the third international theory which offered final solutions to the social economic and political problems of man.

He affirmed that the masses of Sidney Basic People's Congress, being a part of the armed people, were ready to carry arms to defend the Jamahiriyah's revolutionary pillar.

He explained that this defence was not confined to the land but included the defence of Arabism, Islam and the whole of humanity, "because the Great 1st September [Revolution] is not a regional revolution but that of the masses everywhere."

Jallud Address

LD210658Y Tripoli JANA in English 1639 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Dec 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Staff-Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud pointed out that although the Libyan Arab people was not among the founders of the non-aligned movement, yet it shoulders the responsibility of its continuation, for imperialism and reactionism have imagined that by the disappearance of its founders, they could put an end to it.

"This", he said in a speech delivered at the General People's Congress morning session, "gives greater responsibility to the Libyan Arab people to support human freedom and to bring nearer the day of peace as well as to disperse the looming shadow of war so that humanity could live peacefully."

Referring to the 1977 recommendations especially on achieving Arab unity by all available means and on continuing the Arab revolution, Staff-Major Jallud stressed that revolution was the answer to man's liberation, Arab unity and the liberation of Palestine.

Staff-Major Jallud pointed out "among the important resolutions passed by the congresses were defining our policy under the motto 'we befriend those who befriend us and fight those who fight us," and increasing our alliance with the socialist group particularly with the Soviet Union."

"The previous resolutions are still operative and binding," he stressed, pointing out that, "the world gives much concern to our revolutionary and political movements, therefore the revolutionary command considered it appropriate to confirm to the world that these matters were endorsed by the people's congresses resolutions and are by nature not limited to any period of time but are there to remain." He went on to say: "If we are to play a major role in the Arab nation, the Islamic world and the non-aligned countries, we should be strong on this land. We chose to achieve this strength through realizing the people's power, the people's wealth, factories, achievements and social changes. We have certainly been able to play a more important part for the interest of our nation, Islam and the whole of humanity."

Staff-Major Jallud stressed the statement made yesterday by the leader of the revolution, indicating that the activities of the congress had been affected by the health condition of the great struggler Houari Boumediene and the circumstances surrounding the Algerian people. "For, as the leader of the revolution said, anything that affects Algeria is (?bound to) affect us and anything that concerns Algeria is bound to concern us.... Similarly, what happens in the Jamahiriyah also concerns Algeria, this, in view of the circumstances of apostasy, treason and capitulation now experienced by the (?Arab nation)."

'Eternal' Alliance With Algeria

LD201750Y Tripoli JANA in English 1450 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Dec 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Staff-Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud read out the following cable sent by the General People's Congress to the Algerian Council of the Revolution at the final session of the congress this morning.

The General People's Congress which includes people's congresses and committees as well as vocational unions and associations, currently holding this year's ordinary meeting, wishes to express its deep sorrow at the illness of the great militant, President Houari Boumedienne, and prays to God for his recovery so that he could take up his militant role soon.

The Great 1st of September Revolution has been the eternal and fateful ally of the Arab masses, and the Libyan Arab people have stood by the Algerian revolution, resisting reactionary, British, American and French forces. This support is even stronger now that the Libyan Arab people have finally achieved complete liberation and possess free will, which will keep the Algerian revolution, a national gain, to go on. [as received]

With this as a basis, the congress considers it the responsibility of the Arab masses and their revolutionary forces to protect the Algerian revolution, for it plays a key role in the Arab revolution aimed at establishing its humanitarian and civilization role, and at achieving complete freedom and unity as well as the liberation of Palestine.

We also wish to express our anger at the provocations against the Algerian people in such circumstances.

We announce our firm and eternal alliance with, and unlimited and unconditional support for you.

Finally, we wish President Houari Boumedienne, the great militant, speedy recovery.

The General People's Congress.

Congress Decisions

LD202028Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0835 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Decisions of the Libyan General People's Congress read out at the closing session of the congress by the chairman of the drafting committee, who is not identified by name--live]

[Text] The following are decisions of the people's congresses after being drafted by the General People's Congress:

In the name of God: decisions and recommendations of the people's congresses in the course of their third ordinary meetings from 21 October to 20 November 1978 and drawn up by the general meeting of the people's congresses, the people's committees, unions, federations and vocational leagues, the General People's Congress in the course of its fourth ordinary session for 1978.

First: Review of the decisions and recommendations of the people's congresses in the course of their ordinary session during 1977, drafted by the General People's Congress in the course of its third ordinary session of 1977.

The basic people's congresses reviewed their decision and the recommendations and endorsed them. They showed their satisfaction with the executive measures adopted. They asked for the speeding up of the implementation of what has not yet been fulfilled.

Second: Domestic policy:

1--To continue to implement the transformation [tahawwul] budget and the administrative budget for 1978. The people's congresses record their satisfaction with what was achieved in the transformation plan along the path of progress and prosperity. They ask for the speeding up of the implementation of what has not yet been fulfilled of projects identified in appendix No 1.

2--The transformation budget and the administrative budget for 1979.

(A) It proves the allocation of the administrative budget for the fiscal year 1979, identified in appendix No 2.
(B) The people's congresses reviewed the draft transformation budget for 1979 and added new projects identified as appendix No 3.

They approved the allocation of the budget and the new projects taking into consideration the following basic factors:

(1) The available financial resources which can be allocated for expenditure on the transformation process in various social and economic aspects.
(2) The various aspects of the executive resources including those aspects connected with the study of and preparation for the implementation of activity as well as other aspects concerning implementation and supervision.
(3) The giving of priority to the implementation of the schemes approved in the plan which was allocated by the people's congresses in their final form for 1977.
(4) The exclusion of new repetitive schemes.
(5) The exclusion of schemes which cannot be implemented due to technical reasons.
(6) The giving of priority to the productive schemes and then the essential services schemes.

3--The general people's committees in the municipalities. The people's congresses decided to set up general people's committees in the municipalities in accordance to the provisions of the rules in the (?memorandum) and appendix No 4.

4--On the matter of economic crimes:

The people's congresses decided to pass a law on economic crimes to protect public funds and to guard public office against exploitation and (?manipulation) and to delegate the (?justice secretariat) to draw it in accordance with the basis laid down by the people's congresses appendix No 5.

5--Consideration of conditions for naturalization, and conditions for the withdrawal and the cancellation of citizenship.

The people's congresses decided to define the conditions for naturalization and conditions for withdrawing and canceling the citizenship in accordance with the following rules:

(A) The following are conditions for naturalization:

(1) A Libyan origin;
(2) A marriage by an Arab to a Libyan woman provided they reside in Libya;
(3) Being an Arab and residing in Libya;
(4) Being a son of a Libyan woman who married a non-Libyan provided they reside in Libya;
(5) Being an Arab woman married to a Libyan provided they reside in Libya;
(6) Being a foreign woman who married a Libyan provided they reside in Libya;
(7) Ulama;
(8) The surrender of former citizenship.

(B) Conditions for withdrawal of citizenship from any Libyan person of non-Libyan origin during the first 10 years since the person obtained the Libyan citizenship under the following conditions:

(1) If the Libyan citizenship was obtained by false statements or by concealing some important facts;
(2) If judicially convicted, proving the person's unloyalty to the homeland;
(3) If convicted for an immoral conviction or crime;
(4) If the person committed actions (?unbecoming) of a citizen and harmful to Jamahiriyah's interests.

(C) Conditions of cancellation of citizenship:

(1) Being a traitor;
(2) Being a person who does not return after the completion of one's mission or studies, or being recalled;
(3) Being a person who avoided military service;
(4) Being a political refugee;
(5) Being a person who flees abroad, or who smuggles his moneys abroad, or invested his money with the enemies.
(6) Being a person who takes up a faith other than the Islamic faith;
(7) Being a person who left the country following the outbreak of the revolution and who did not return;
(8) Being a Libyan who takes up another nationality;
(9) Being a Libyan who stays 10 years abroad without permission, excluding the immigrants who came as a result of Italian colonialism;
(10) In addition to the condition already in force at present. [as heard]

(D) Instrument of application:

The instrument of application is the general people's committee in accordance with a submission by the Interior Secretariat and with the knowledge and (?notification) of the specialized bodies of the people's committee and the people's congress.

6--Reorganize tne sector of information and culture.

One of the provisions of the people's authority is that factions of the people should take part in administering the sector of information and culture in their various machinery and establishment. The peoples congresses decided to reorganize the sectors of information and culture according to the (?provisions) in appendix No 6.

7--The powers and the jurisdictions granted to the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress and those which were granted to the Revolution Command Council.

The people's congresses regarding the powers and jurisdictions granted to the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress and those which were granted to the Revolution Command Council decided on the following:

(A) The General People's Congress is to be in charge of selecting the president and judges of the high court, the governor and deputy governor of the Central Bank of Libya, the attorney general, the control general, and the president and members of the audit office.

(B) The General Secretariat of the General People's Congress is to attach the audit office to the general administrative control central machinery.

(C) The general people's committee is to commence exercising the following jurisdictions:

(1) The appointment of each of the chairmen of the boards of the national petroleum establishments, the agricultural bank, and the industrial real estate bank;
(2) The ambassadors and delegated ministers to the diplomatic corps;
(3) The establishment of public companies;
(4) The establishment of public (?libraries);
(5) The sanctioning of payments when budgets are delayed;
(6) The paying of salaries and extraordinary or additional awards;
(7) The allocation of the overall plans for the towns;
(8) The assuming of all the jurisdictions provided by law to establish the Arab Development Institute by (?assuming) administrative control over it.
(9) The authorization of the rules governing public welfare societies.

(D) The jurisdictions of the higher council for judicial bodies are on the following:

(1) The composition of the courts for ordinary cases;
(2) The reprieve measures;
(3) The application of sentences and other measures.

(E) The foreign secretary is to receive the credentials of the heads of the foreign diplomatic missions.

8--The armed people.

Stemming from the responsibilty of every male and female citizen to defend the homeland the people's congresses decided to militarize [tajyish] the towns together with continuing the general military training work and compulsory service in order to acheive the establishment of armed people.

9--The coastal belt for agriculture.

The people's congresses with regard to the agricultural coastal belt decided to:

(A) replan and distribute the agricultural lands taking into consideration the economic volume together with drawing up new controls and conditions for those who benefit;

(B) (?apply) a scientific irrigation system in the irrigated areas and to abandon the existing traditional irrigation system, by (?technical) exploitation of water resources.

(C) To register the reservations of the people's congresses clarified in the appendix No 7.

10--The employment of Libyan teachers during the summer vacation.

To stress the need to increase the productive capacity, the people's congresses decided to put teachers to work during the summer vacation and to deduct the teaching allowance from those who do not carry out the work given to them during the summer vacation.

11--The role of the revolutionary medical profession and the revolutionary adviser.

To realize the transformation from backwardness to progress the people's congresses decided to authorize the initiatives of the professional congresses regarding the revolutionary medical profession and the revolutionary agricultural adviser.

12--Report of the central machinery for general administrative control.

The people's congresses studied the report of the central machinery for general administrative control and recommended the need to intensify control and to implement what is decided by the central machinery for general administrative control to protect public funds and to guard public office.

Third: Foreign policy.

The people's congresses affirm the fundamental and firm bases which govern our foreign policy--Arab, Islamic, African and international--and decided the following:

1--To approve the contents of the foreign policy report.

2--In affirmation of the pan-Arab leadership responsibility which the Great 1st September Revolution is assuming, for firmly establishing the will of steadfastness and liberation, for the mobilization of the resources of the Arab nation and using the resources in the interest of the battle of liberation and dignity, the people's congresses decided:

(A) To support Syria and Jordan with money and weapons on the basis of:

(1) Opening the border to the Palestinian resistance for fighting purposes;
(2) Not negotiating with the enemy directly or indirectly;
(3) Adhering to the resolutions of the pan-Arab Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation and the Arab summit in Baghdad.

(B) To support the Palestinian resistance with money and weapons on the basis of:

(1) The work for the unification of the Palestinian resistance detachments;
(2) The continuation and escalation of the fighting against the Zionist enemy;
(3) The adherence to the resolutions of the pan-Arab Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation and the Arab summit in Baghdad;
(4) The military training of the Palestinians residing in the Jamahiriyah.

3--In cementing the leading role of the Great 1st of September Revolution in supporting and upholding the movement of the liberation of man, and in affirming the unity of the Arab and African struggle against the racist enemy in Palestine and in the southern part of the African Continent, the people's congresses decided that the Jamahiriyah should bear its responsibility together with the African confrontation states and support their struggle by all means against racist colonialism.

4--In view of the historic, geographical, political and economic ties between the Jamahiriyah and Malta, the people's congresses decided to sanction the program of the bilateral cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and Malta for a period of 5 years in accordance with appendix No 8.

5--The people's congresses decided to endorse the international agreements which the Jamahiriyah had concluded and joined between the period of the convening of the two sessions of the General People's Congress, a period which covers 1977 and 1978. The agreements are explained in the appendix No 9. [passage indistinct]

This is the end of the reading of recommendations and resolutions. [applause]

PLO'S 'ARAFAT LEAVES TRIPOLI AT END OF VISIT

LD202042Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpt] Tripoli--Brother Yasir 'Arafat left Tripoli this evening at the end of his visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, during which he attended some of the sessions of the General People's Congress which ended in Tripoli this morning.

He was seen off at Uqbah ibn Nafi airbase by the Libyan chief of general staff.

MAURITANIA

OULD SALECK INTERVIEWED ON SAHARA ISSUES, ECONOMIC RECOVERY

LD201121Y Paris DEMAIN L'AFRIQUE in French 4 Dec 78 pp 30-33 LD

[Paul Bernetel interview with Col Mustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, chairman of Mauritania's Military Committee for National Recovery, in Paris 8 November: "Ould Saleck: 'What We Want'"]

[Text] [Question] Immediately after you came to power, Mr Chairman, you made it clear that you were firmly committed to the "dynamics of peace" to arrive at a settlement of the Western Sahara conflict. Some 5 months after your statements, it seems that the resurgence of optimism which you helped to arouse has lost some of its strength.

[Answer] I do not think we can really say at this stage that the "resurgence of optimism has lost some of its strength." Our determination in pursuing our "dynamics of peace" is proceeding in the same direction. It must be recalled that we entertain no illusions. In all our statements we have not stopped saying that the process will necessarily be a long one because of the difficulties and lacerations it involves for others. The delays which some people call "blocks" are in fact only the "turns," let us say, which are normal along such a difficult course.

[Question] However, things seem to be at a standstill. What is happening and where are you going?

[Answer] The stages we foresaw have been traversed. I will recall them quickly:

--Contacts between all interested parties. I can recall no impetus launched by one party exclusively, nor any objection expressed by one party to contacts with all the others.

--Increased sensitivity among the regional and international organizations of fraternal Arab and African countries, other friendly countries and the great powers to the need for the Western Maghreb to return to peace, security and stability. We are entering the phase where it will be necessary to show our hand and move toward what is essential. That is all too appropriate, since until now we have been in the phase of maneuvers, evasion, distrust and hesitations....

But in our opinion nobody can turn back the peace train and all this cannot halt the peace process. Of course opposing temptations exist. Of course we must arm ourselves with the necessary courage and display a sense of history. We believe the fraternal peoples to be capable of this and in the last analysis we have confidence in the wisdom of their leaders.

[Question] Envoys from your government have made contact with the POLISARIO Front on several occasions. What is happening here? What are Mauritanian troops now doing in the south of the Western Sahara?

[Answer] In our quest for a true peace, that is, lasting comprehensive and without preconditions, we have made contact freely and liberally with all parties capable, in our opinion, of helping us to achieve a sucessful conclusion to the peace process. We come with an open mind and, above all, ready to discuss any realistic, constructive proposal. With the POLISARIO, in particular, we will do anything which, while respecting our absolute sovereignty (both as an old nation and as a young state), would really settle the problem, that is, would protect our population from any fratricidal war and alleviate the sufferings of the Saharan peoples.

In view of this, "compromise" and "intransigence" must therefore be weighed carefully and placed in the context of a conflict which is admittedly bitter, but also dramatically fratricidal. Everyone knows, too, that no sacrifice is too great for us when it is a question of Mauritania's sovereignty and the dignity of its people and its armed forces. As for the presence of these forces in Tiris El Hgarbia, they are continuing their mission of fraternization and protection, which they have been pursuing ever since they were sent there.

[Question] When your contacts with POLISARIO were announced, King Hassan II made it known publicly that your initiatives required certain explanations. How do you interpret this reaction? Anxiety? Disapproval?

[Answer] I do not know what you mean by "explanations." If you mean by that Mauritania must account for its actions to anyone, the term is inappropriate. If, on the other hand, you mean "consultation" and "exchanges of opinion" between fraternal and friendly countries, that is only normal.

As regards the anxiety which you believe you have detected, I do not think Morocco is displaying anxiety. The Mauritanian people, like the Moroccan people, are people of their word, who know how to honor and value friendship and make no secret of contacts with anyone. It goes without saying that contacts have at no time been intended to be prejudicial to a fraternal people and in this sense any anxiety is completely unjustified. As for "disapproval," I think it is a question here of a rather gratuitous though excusable, extrapolation of an extreme nature. We in Mauritania will never allow ourselves to express public disapproval of the numerous initiatives and contact which our Moroccan brothers could be led to undertake. I also know that no disapproval (as you put it) of our action could ever be expressed by them. Relations between us are fraternal relations on the basis of equality, not subordination. And all this, you see, involves a question of trust...and tact.

You have had many other contacts on the Western Sahara. With whom? How have your analyses and plans been greeted? Have you had contacts with the Algerians?

[Answer] Of course, Mauritania is a central part of the Maghreb-Sudan region. Everything which concerns us also has echoes among our neighbors and we owe them explanations and exchanges of opinions. So I have naturally had prolonged talks with His Majesty Hassan II, Presidents Senghor, Moussa Traore, Houphouet-Boigny and others.

There are no fundamental differences on the analysis of the situation or on the need for a just and final peace. Of course, there are always assessments of phenomena, if not conclusions, which may not coincide--that is only natural. We have had contacts with all our neighbors, including the Algerians.

[Question] In your opinion, what role should the OAU play in restoring peace in your region? Do you think it is better placed than the United Nations to achieve this goal, thanks to its Khartoum Committee of Wise Men?

[Answer] The OAU's role? To bring the protagonists together, to bring the weight of the continent's conscience to bear on the issue of peace. Without being naive, and without overestimating the OAU's potential, I believe it offers the framework for a settlement of the problem without anyone's losing face. The OAU and the United Nations must not be seen as opposing entities. The two organizations' aim is necessarily the same--to resolve through consultations a problem whose solution necessarily requires the use of a great deal of realism, logic and courage. The only difference is that the OAU makes it possible to solve the conflict in the family, far removed from the extravagant promises and ideological wrangling which divide the United Nations.

That being said, we must leave the choice of the committee's best course of action to the wise men themselves, who happily have sufficient experience, motivation and political weight to enable the protagonists to overcome vanity and circumstantial rivalry in favor of a conciliatory attitude which is more in conformity with the long, very long common history woven together by the peoples of the Western Maghreb. That will be the committee's decisive contribution and we will be halfway there.

[Question] Can France do anything? If so, would not its action be more convincing if it decided to stop involving its air force on your side? Do you not intend to ask it to withdraw?

[Answer] Yes, it can certainly do something. Not, perhaps, as an intermediary, but through its advice to all interested parties, who are all linked to France by a diffuse network of friendship and interests.

France's commitment on our side need not pose any problems. It goes without saying, reversing what seems to be your order of priorities, that the region's return to stability will mean that France no longer has any reason to maintain an onerous military presence, which arrived and is maintained in our country on our own request. In any case, it has indicated that it has a strong interest in a rapid solution to the conflict. That is the main thing, and not the presence of air support in our region.

[Question] And the Moroccan troops whose presence POLISARIO reproaches you for?

[Answer] The deployments and redeployments of Moroccan forces in Mauritania were indeed a response to a certain situation. Since 10 July, a new situation has arisen in any case, and measures to confront this new situation are being adopted. It is obvious that the two countries concerned are not making a show of the details of their implementation. What is certain is that, as circumstances indicate that the presence of those troops on our soil no longer proves necessary, they will be sent home, to a man.

[Question] For a long time Mauritania gave the impression that it could not exist without an alliance with one or other of its powerful neighbors. Your nationalism and that of your government seems quite touchy, and you seem to be oriented toward a form of neutralism. Do you have the means to puruse such a policy?

[Answer] Mauritania and its people have never needed anyone's support. It is not necessarily myself, the Military Committee for National Recovery, or the government which are touchy. But the Mauritanian people remember that they have always lived in this free land, the homeland of the Almoravids and the cradle of the empires of Ghana and Tekrur. They have no neuroses with respect to any other people. The peoples of the region are fraternal peoples and we are engaged in asserting and reforming our ties with them. But this will never be at the expense of the superior interest of our nation, of the sovereignty of our state or of the specific character of our people. "Neutralism," for us, is not the best word to use because we are not talking about two irretrievably hostile blocs. It is a case of fraternal peoples temporarily in disagreement.

Once again we are thinking of joining the specific Arab and African groups to which we closely belong. We want to preserve our friendship with everyone and to respect our commitments. But this does not detract in any way from our own personality, from our full and total sovereignty, from our determination to rely indeed on our own efforts. And we are convinced that we do have the means to defend our national will and sovereignty.

We need other people. But let it be understood that all the others need Mauritania, because of its geographical position, its intrinsic strength and the spirit of its people.

[Question] You have inherited a very precarious economic situation. How are you thinking of restoring and then accelerating development?

[Answer] We have set about tackling this grave heritage by first measuring the actual dimensions of the economic disaster: terrible debts, an abortive industrialization carried out for reasons of prestige, a lack of economic integration. We must therefore advance for the time being with as little waste as possible while pondering the elaboration of a coherent and realistic economic program making it possible to reduce the dichotomy between the modern and traditional sectors and the disproportions in the development levels of our regions. Indeed we have a program for economic and financial recovery which has received our endorsement and that of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. If it is correctly applied it will enable us to normalize the overall state of economic activity and public finance, but for this truly titanic operation we are counting primarily on our people's spirit and extraordinary capacity for sacrifice. We are counting on the boldness, sense of initiative and experience of our businessmen, on our country's potential with respect to marine and subterranean resources and on livestock raising and crop farming.

We are also counting on the solidarity of the fraternal Arab peoples and on cooperation and advice from other friendly countries and international financial organs.

I can tell you that these 5 months have made it possible to create an atmosphere of trust whose effects, at home, make it possible to predict a slow but sure recovery and favorable attitudes toward us abroad.

[Question] On what aid can you count? Will you give a fresh boost to the iron industry?

[Answer] With respect to the aid already received, that from Saudi Arabia--$100 million--has been the most substantial and the swiftest. Aid from Morocco, Kuwait, Libya and certain other fraternal countries has also given us a respite.

We have many promises, particularly from our sister Republic of Iraq. The revival of the intensive ferrous metallurgy industry has already been started thanks to the reorganization of the national industrial and mining company, which will enable it to implement, under the best conditions, the first $400 million stage of the GUELBS [expansion unknown] project.

[Question] What do you expect from the return to economic liberalism?

[Answer] As far as economic liberalism is concerned, it stems first from our basic decision to promote and preserve all the fundamental democratic liberties, human rights and economic rights of our citizens. It also stems from our Islamic philosophy which rejects excessive plundering and shackles on commercial freedom, and the customs and abilities of our fellow citizens, who are full of initiative. Nonetheless, and we have never ceased to reiterate this, this liberalism will never run wild and above all it will never provide an opportunity for groups capable of harnessing the state.

[Question] Mauritania is a pivotal nation between the peoples of the north and south Sahara. Can this fact help your people to erect a nationalism which maintains equilibrium between black Africa and the Arab world?

[Answer] This nationalism is our pride and the reason for our free existence, the condition of our life. The Mauritanians are as much at ease in Arab economic and political organizations as they are in African ones. But for us there is no exclusive choice but a complementarity--which is becoming increasingly evident with every passing day--between the two worlds to which we fervently belong. That being the case, do not forget above all that the components of our country have undergone a successful mixing process, that they unite absolutely similar traditions, that they have lived together closely for centuries and that they have all been immersed in the same spiritual good citizenship that is the Arab-Islamic civilization.

[Question] Mr President, may I ask you to reply to a question which the public is asking with respect to your country? Where is former President Miktar Ould Daddah? What has happened to him? What fate have you in store for him?

[Answer] He is in Mauritania and is being treated in a decent, dignified, generous manner. His fate, which depends exclusively on the will of the Mauritanians, will be determined by the depth of the harm he has caused to the Mauritanian nation. He will not be treated with animosity. There will be no settling of scores. He will be treated fairly. But decency demands that, before mentioning the isolated case of Moktar Ould Daddah, people should remember the physical and psychological harm suffered by an entire people over 20 years of slavery...

SUDAN

NUMAYRI TO CHAIR EMERGENCY SSU MEETING 23 DEC

JN201536Y Khartoum SUNA inArabic 1407 GMT 20 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Dec--The Political Bureau of the Sudanese Socialist Union [SSU] is to hold an emergency meeting under President Numayri, SSU chairman, on Saturday evening.

DAYAN LEAVES FOR EUROPE; TO MEET KHALIL

Airport Statement

TA201754Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1750 GMT 20 Dec 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpts] The foreign minister departed this afternoon for Brussels where he will, according to plans, stay for 3 days. At the airport, Dayan refused to answer questions on the peace negotiations, but was ready to answer questions on other issues. Our correspondent Dan Eshel was at Ben-Gurion Airport.

[Eshel] Dayan defined the purpose of his visit as, on the one hand, to handle EEC matters and, on the other, to undertake a publicity campaign on the state of the negotiations. In the political part of his trip, Dayan will, among other things, deal with Spain and Greece joining the EEC. As is well known, these two countries do not recognize Israel. [begin recording]

[Dayan] Within the framework of the EEC, this will be the first time that we will be together with countries with which we have no diplomatic relations. They promised to establish diplomatic relations with us before they entered the EEC, but we want to make sure that the members of the EEC--the nine members of the European Community--will insist on this and guarantee it. All in all, this is an absurd situation: that in all Europe, these are the only two countries that do not have any relations with us and we will have to compete with them and cooperate with them, mainly on agricultural matters. [end recording]

[Eshel] Dayan said that most of his time will be devoted to a publicity campaign on the negotiations.

Dayan explained that in order to deal with the economic aspect of this tour, Mr Haran, who is authorized to deal with this sphere in the Foreign Ministry, is also going. Together with the team already present in Brussels, they will be able to deal with issues pertaining to this matter.

To Meet Khalil 'Soon'

TA201727Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1710 GMT 20 Dec 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] A dramatic development in the political negotiations: Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who left this afternoon for Brussels to take part in discussions on EEC matters, will meet with Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil in Europe. This very minute, our political correspondent Shalom Qital received details on the upcoming meeting:

The initiative for this meeting came from the United States. Cyrus Vance advised the two parties to meet and the two parties agreed. Mustafa Khalil and Moshe Dayan will meet within the next 24 hours in Europe. One ought to point out that this meeting will not constitute a renewal of the negotiations, but rather a meeting that is supposed to determine how the negotiations will continue. It is worthwhile mentioning that anyone who listened to Moshe Dayan yesterday night at the summation of the political debate at the Knesset heard at the end of the debate a note slightly more optimistic than at the beginning of the debate when Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Foreign Minister Dayan spoke.

Toward the end of the discussion, there were already details on what was cooking and, indeed, Moshe Dayan could speak in a slightly more optimistic tone on the fact that the resumption of negotiations could be expected. Indeed, senior representatives of Egypt and Israel will meet and will determine how the negotiations will continue. This, the continuation of the negotiations, is expected to take place within the coming weeks.

[Announcer] Is it known where Dayan will meet with Dr Khalil?

[Qital] Neither the place nor the time have been precisely fixed, but a meeting will take place.

To Discuss Procedures

TA201923Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who left this afternoon for Brussels, will meet either on Saturday night or on Sunday with Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil. Our correspondent Dan Raviv brings additional details:

This afternoon, the prime minister's office in Jerusalem received U.S. Secretary of State Vance's statement to the effect that Egyptian agreement had been obtained for a meeting between Egyptian Prime Minister Khalil and the Israeli foreign minister who left for Brussels today.

It transpires that this was agreed upon between the United States and Egypt last Friday when Vance visited Egypt. However, only today was Israel informed of this, for reasons known only to the Americans.

The Egyptian prime minister will travel especially for the meeting with Dayan which, according to Prime Minister Begin's remarks this evening, will take place on Saturday night or on Sunday.

It is possible that Dayan will have to extend his planned visit to Europe.

Ministers were informed by telephone of the unexpected U.S. initiative and, in the wake of this, a briefing took place between the prime minister and Foreign Minister Dayan and the Israeli position toward the meeting in Brussels was agreed upon.

The prime minister has just confirmed that the foreign minister has been empowered to discuss procedural issues only and not substantive issues. One can deduce from this that the guidelines given to the foreign minister allow him to reach an understanding with the Egyptian prime minister on the matters of whether it is possible to resume the negotiations and how and when they should be resumed.

Dayan is not supposed to conduct negotiations with the Egyptians on the fundamental issues under dispute which brought the talks to a deadlock.

In answer to my question, the prime minister refused to discuss the possible results of the talks and only said: We do not want to deal with hypotheses. Let us wait and see.

FOREIGN MINISTRY BRIEFS ENVOYS ON PEACE TALKS

TA201342Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Dec 78 p 2 TA

[By Yosef Wachsman]

[Text] At a political briefing for 32 ambassadors accredited to Israel, Foreign Ministry legal adviser Dr Me'ir Rosenne said yesterday: "If we sign an unpreferential peace agreement, we shall be signing the death certificate of the agreement even before we have signed its birth certificate."

Dr Rosenne, who has taken an active part in every stage of the negotiations, also said that all accusations that Israel has exaggerated matters in the sphere of "logistics" are unfounded. The contrary is true: in every move in the negotiations, it was the Egyptians who took meticulous pains with every mark and letter and who were extremely cautious with legal formulations.

At a briefing for ambassadors held by Foreign Ministry Director General Yosef Ciechanover, the director general said in answer to a question that the cabinet has not yet discussed the manner in which autonomy in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip would work. He emphasized, however, that in Israel's view, the basis for autonomy is a coexistence between the Israeli settlers and the local inhabitants.

The ambassadors asked numerous questions and, in particular: What will Israel's next move be? Ciechanover replied that Israel desires continuing the negotiating process and signing the agreement, taking into consideration that time does not act in favor of any of the parties. Israel, however, cannot agree to dictates or deviations from the Camp David accords.

The briefing was attended by almost all the ambassadors accredited to Israel except for U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis, who has been participating in the entire negotiating process. Also absent were the nine representatives of the EEC countries who had been invited to a separate briefing earlier.

YIZHAQ RABIN: SIGNING PEACE TREATY INEVITABLE

TA201611Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 20 Dec 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] Former Prime Minister Yizhaq Rabin expressed his conviction today that, despite the current crisis in the negotiations between Israel and Egypt, the peace treaty will ultimately be signed. Speaking to students from Jerusalem's Hebrew University, Rabin leveled criticism at the government and said that it must learn how not to say an unequivocal no in the same octave on every subject because it later has to back away from its decisions. Our correspondent Rafi Reshef brings excerpts of MK Yizhaq Rabin's comments: [begin recording]

[Rabin] I am convinced that the peace treaty will be signed. If not on 17 December, then on 17 January. If not on 17 January, then on 17 February. Egypt and Israel, Begin and As-Sadat, have no way to go back. As for the differences which currently exist concerning Article VI, Article IV and Article V, solutions will be found. In my opinion, the major problems [have been solved] and Israel has already paid the most important, dear and painful price in agreeing to evacuate the Sinai, to uproot the settlements and the IDF bases and to have a political link between the southern front and the eastern front, though only a political link, not a legal link.

[Reshef] Yizhaq Rabin criticized the government's policy and its unequivocal negative replies given during the negotiations.

[Rabin] Say no in lower octaves and make the distinction between a no which means no--this almost reminds me of the song: When You Say No, What Do You Mean?--so that the no on which we really insist can be viewed differently from a weaker no. [end recording]

IDF AIRCRAFT ATTACK FATAH BASES IN SOUTH LEBANON

TA201519Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Air force planes attacked Fatah positions in Lebanon about an hour ago. All our planes returned home safely. The attack was made near Dahr al-Burj, Qasimiyah and Burj ash-Shamali.

The IDF spokesman has announced that the targets served as training installations and home bases for terrorists on their way to carry out terrorists activities inside Israel, including the attack on the bus along the coastal road 9 months ago.

Since last month, terrorist organizations have carried out 14 terrorists acts in Israel in which four Israeli citizens were killed and 67 were wounded. Among these were the explosion on the Egged bus that ran from Sedom to Jerusalem, which happened last month and in which four people were killed, the explosion on the [Jerusalem] No 12 bus at the beginning of the week in which 22 people were injured and today's incident in the old city of Jerusalem in which six people were hurt.

The IDF spokesman has emphasized that today's attack is in line with the IDF's basic policy of attacking the terrorists' training and home bases from which they venture forth to carry out terrorist activity in Israel.

Our military correspondent Roni Dani'el reports that in every base that was attacked 10 to 20 terrorists were found as well as buildings and tents. The attack lasted approximately 15 minutes and so far good hits have been reported.

TERRORISTS BOMBARD QIRYAT SHEMONA, FIVE INJURED

TA210724Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 21 Dec 78 TA

[Excerpt] In the terrorist bombardment of Qiryat Shemona this morning five persons were hit and the injured have been taken to Zefat Hospital.

Our correspondent Yehezq'el Hame'iri reports that one of the township's houses received a direct hit in the bombardment and the third floor collapsed, trapping the tenants in the rubble. The tenants were pulled out of the rubble, including five children, who suffered shock but no injuries.

Classes in Qiryat Shemona schools have been canceled and the residents are still in the shelters.

EXPLOSION IN JERUSALEM INJURES FOUR

TA201114Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Dec 78 TA

[Text] About an hour ago there was an explosion near the Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem. Four people were slightly injured and hospitalized in the Hospice Hospital in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Shemu'el Tal says that the explosion occurred in the entrance of a restaurant on David Street, near a greengrocer's. Many people were passing. The restaurant and nearby shops were badly damaged. The police closed off and searched the area to make certain there were no other charges. The crossroads is now being reopened to traffic.

PEACE NOW MOVEMENT CRITICIZES PRESIDENT CARTER

TA201406Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Leaders of the Peace Now Movement criticized President Carter's stand toward the Government of Israel. They said that the criticism levelled at the President's policy by U.S. professors was made on the movement's behalf and had been coordinated with the movement's leaders.

The leaders of the movement said at a news conference in Jerusalem that an impression has been created that the cabinet is retreating from the autonomy plan and, hence, only a gesture in the form of a declaration about concessions in Judaea and Samaria can save the peace agreement.

COMMISSIONER ON IMPORTANCE OF WEST BANK WATER SOURCES

TA201156Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Dec 78 TA

[Text] The water commissioner said that if Israel does not control the water sources in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, catastrophic results may affect Israel's water economy. The commissioner made the remarks to members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee in the framework of a debate on aspects of the autonomy program. He explained that about 50 percent of the water sources in the territories are used to irrigate agricultural areas within the green line. Any additional use of the water within the spheres of the autonomy would come at the expense of needs within the green line, the commissioner emphasized, and this means that we would be forced to cut down the agricultural territories.

POLICE FILES OPENED ON GUSH EMUNIM SETTLERS

TA201933Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Dec 78 TA

[Text] The Israeli police have opened criminal files on the leader of the Allon More nucleus, Avraham Mintz, and on Gush Emunim leaders Rabbi Moshe Levinger and Beni Katzover.

Our correspondent Yo'el Esteron reports that the files were opened by the Natanya police in the wake of a settlement attempt near Nabulus about 3 months ago. The Allon More nucleus secretariat issued a statement this evening saying that this is a new pinnacle in the series of Likud government activities to suppress the settlers.

GOVERNOR LIMITS CONSTRUCTION BAN IN BAYT SAHUR

TA201632Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Dec 78 TA

[Text] The military government has excluded the already developed rural area from the territory [in Bayt Sahur] to which the order banning construction applies. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari says that the decision was made by the military governor of Judaea and Samaria after he had visited the area and seen that there were buildings that had been built a long time ago in the area. The area commander has already notified the members of the Bayt Sahur council about his decision. Our correspondent reports that following this decision the order banning construction may be canceled with reference to half of the area originally included in the order, i.e., between 450 to 600 dunam.

NEW GOLAN HEIGHTS SETTLEMENT CONSTRUCTION REPORTED

TA201346Y Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1320 GMT 20 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Zemah, 20 Dec--Natur will be the name of a settlement on Tel Natur, west of Ramat Magshimim. The settlement is being constructed by the Hashomer Haza'ir Movement and the movement's construction department has already begun work there.

The secretary of the Hakibbutz Ha'arzi Movement, Y. Pinkerfeld, said at a meeting with members of the Golan Settlements Committee that the Hakibbutz Ha'arzi views the establishment of a foothold on the site as very important because it will make it possible to establish many other Hashomer Haza'ir settlements on the Golan.

FURTHER DRILLING IN SINAI OILFIELD ORDERED

TA201936Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Against the background of the crisis in the peace talks and the lack of clarity concerning the date of withdrawal from Sinai, Minister of Energy Yizhaq Moda'i today instructed the National Oil Company to immediately begin further oil drilling in the 'Alma field near At-Tur.

Our economic affairs correspondent Elishe Spiegelman reports that the decision was made after consultations with director general of the National Oil Company El'Azar Baraq. It transpired in the consultations that the productivity of the 'Alma-6 field has surpassed all expectations--about 9,000 barrels a day. It is believed that the investment in new drilling--'Alma-7--will be about $4 million and will be recouped within 2 months.

JERUSALEM POST: CHINA SOFTENING ANTI-ISRAEL STAND

TA210915Y Jerusalem POST in English 21 Dec 78 p 1 TA

[Text] United Nations--A softening in China's anti-Israel rhetoric was noted here in the wake of the announcement last weekend that Washington and Peking would exchange ambassadors.

Israeli diplomatic sources yesterday noted the comparatively muted tone of a news release issued by the People's Republic of China but said its significance was unclear.

The five-page release, issued by the Chinese mission to the UN in the form of a commentary by the correspondent of the official government news agency, NCNA, strongly attacks Soviet designs in the Middle East.

It blames troubles in the region during the past year on superpower rivalry, "particularly... Soviet infiltration, subversion, sabotage and the sowing of discord."

Moscow sought to sabotage the Egyptian-Israel accord promoted by President Jimmy Carter to safeguard the strategic interests of the U.S. and Western Europe, said the Chinese news agency.

PARIS: KHOMEYNI SAYS USSR HAS HARMED IRANIANS

LD202352Y Paris Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] From his place of retreat in the Paris region, Ayatollah Khomeyni reiterates in an interview with a Tunisian weekly that he wants to create a modern and progressive Islamic republic in Iran. The religious leader adds that the USSR in among the countries which has greatly harmed his people and it is therefore out of the question to allow it to interfere with Iranian affairs.

SANJABI RULES OUT FRONT PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

TA211131Y Paris AFP in English 1059 GMT 21 Dec 78 TA

[Excerpt] Tehran, Dec 21 (AFP)--The leader of Iran's opposition National Front, Karim Sanjabi, today ruled out the front's participation in a civilian government headed by veteran politician Gholam Sadiqi a former NF member.

Mr Sadiqi a former deputy premier of the 1950's in the nationalist government of Dr Mohammad Mossadeq is understood to have been asked to head a new government during a recent meeting with the shah.

In an open letter published here today, Mr Sanjabi pointed out that Mr Sanjabi pointed out that Mr Sadiqi left the National Front in 1963 and his decisions did not carry the front's backing.

The letter said Mr Sadiqi had "agreed to form a government" at a time when the Iranian people had risen up against "despotism, imperialism, the pillaging of public property and is demanding the overthrow of the regime."

"It is clear that your agreement (to form a government) will be a failure and will only harm you," Mr Sanjabi's letter said.

Meanwhile, the Iranian Information Ministry today denied reports that Prime Minister General Gholam Azhari had suffered a heart attack yesterday, and was in hospital. Official sources said the prime minister was at his office in Tehran today.

TEHRAN REPORTS TWO KILLED IN TEHRAN BAZAAR CLASH

LD201446Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] According to an announcement by an informed official of the military governorate of Tehran and suburbs, today, 20 December, as a result of a clash between the patrolling officers of the military governorate and a number of demonstrators in the Tehran bazaar, one officer of the military governorate was killed and two others wounded. One of the demonstrators was also killed and two others wounded.

AFP: TEHRAN UNIVERSITY OFFICE OCCUPIED

TA201956Y Paris AFP in English 1949 GMT 20 Dec 78 TA

[Excerpts] Tehran, 20 Dec (AFP)--Professors calling for the reopening of Tehran University occupied the offices of the rector here today. Helmeted troops encircled the building, but allowed supporters to bring in food and blankets. About 60 faculty members were involved in the action. A leader of the movement, Naser Pakdaman, said the opposition National Front Party was supporting the seizure of the building.

In another development, reliable sources said eight Iran Air pilots, layed off earlier this week for a strike action, had been rehired. The company relented after more than one-third of its 260 pilots threatened to resign in a show of solidarity, the sources said.

DEMONSTRATIONS HELD IN MARAGHEH, AT TABRIZ FUNERAL

LD211133Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Maragheh today witnessed demonstrations and marches. Doctors and other groups of Maragheh citizens staged demonstrations in protest against the incident at the Shahreza Hospital in the holy city of Mashhad in the city's streets. Following their march the doctors announced that instead of going on strike they will treat patients for 1 day free of charge.

In Tabriz, a funeral ceremony was held with the participation of groups of people today for the late Haj Mirza Baqer Khiabani, the prayer leader of the Malalan mosque in a Tabriz district. In the course of the ceremony a group of people chanted slogans, but they were dispersed by the intervention of security forces.

SHAH RECEIVES NEW NIOC MANAGING DIRECTOR

LD201742Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The shah received Mr Hasan Vali Mehran, minister of economic affairs and finance, this afternoon. At this audience, the minister of economic affairs and finance introduced Mr 'Abdollah Entezam as chairman of the board of directors and managing director of the NIOC to the shah.

TEHRAN REPORTS GAS PIPELINE RESUMES OPERATION

LD211043Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 21 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The Iranian gas pipeline resumed operation at 0400 today when it began supplying gas to the Alborz industrial estate.

HEALTH MINISTRY OFFICIALS IMPRISONED FOR FRAUD

LD201200Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Summary] A Ministry of Justice spokesman announced today that Dr Mohammad Reza Moqaddas, former deputy minister of health; Dr Yusof Toliati, Health Ministry under secretary for computer affairs; and Hoseyn Parsakojuri, supervisor of the computer department of that ministry, have been imprisoned on the order of Mr Hoseyn Dadgar, the chief investigator of the civil service court, on charges of fraud and misappropriation of public funds amounting to 2.87 billion rials.

The investigation section of the civil service court is at present engaged in inquiries concerning other crimes, the results of which will be announced upon their completion. The spokesman emphasized that the trial of these offenders will be open to the public and press representatives should they wish to attend.

TEHRAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR ON CURRENCY EXPORT INVESTIGATION

LD202322Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] In a radio and television interview, Tehran's public prosecutor revealed the results of the investigation of a commission of inquiry relating to a list--published by the Association of Central Bank Staff some time ago--of names of people who had exported foreign currency. He expressed the hope that, with the assistance of other organizations, he would be able to make public a full list of the names of foreign currency exporters. The commission of inquiry has published a list of 102 names out of the 178 included in the list of the Association of Central Bank Staff, and has announced that investigations and inquiries relating to details of the remaining names on the list are continuing and the results will be made public later.

In the interview, Mr Hoseyn Modarresi, Tehran's public prosecutor, stated that the foreign currency exported was related to the past and was not connected with the new operational directive, which stresses that no one may export foreign currency. The commission's investigations, therefore, had merely been based on complaints made by those whose names had appeared on the list but who had stated that they had not exported any currency abroad. Tehran's public prosecutor said that the government employees whose names were included on the list would be prosecuted in accordance with the "where you got it from" act.[an act passed several years ago aimed at investigating government officials' assets and their sources].

He went on: Some of the people included in the list of 102 published by the public prosecution are identified only by their surnames. For the Tehran Public Prosecution, therefore, the particulars of these people are not yet clear. Those who are identified in the list only by their surnames or those who have similar names to those listed can contact the Tehran Public Prosecution should they have any complaints.

Here now are the names of those identified, with both first names and surnames:

Mohsen Azmayesh, Engineer Sirus Arjmad, Hushang Ansari, Habib Akhavan, Mahmud Akhavan, Nader Akrami, Ahmad Ebrahimi, 'Ali Iravani, Khosrow Akmal, Azarnush Ebiehaj, 'Alam Arastu, Ja'far Akhavan, Habib Alqanian, Manuchehr Azmun, Jamshid Bozorgmehr, 'Enayat Behbahani, Ahmad Nabipur, Shahriyar Pahlavi-Nia, Shahram Pahlavi-Nia, Abolqasem Kheradju, Mahmud Khayyami, Amir Roseyn Khozeymeh 'Alam, 'Abdolhoseyn Sami'i, Fatollah Sotudeh, Shahpur Shahbazi, Dr Sheykholeslamzadeh, Lt Gen Sami'i, Abunasr 'Azod, Ahmad Qotbi, Ahmad Kashani, Habib Lajevardi, Seyyed Mohammad Lajevardi, 'Ali Reza'i, Shariyar Reza'i, Hasan Ramzi-'Ata'i, Hushang Ram, Lt Gen Esma'il Riahi, Iran Mobashsher, Ami Mottaqi, Ami Navidi, Dariyush Homayun, Mohsen Hasheminezhad, a businessman in the Tehran bazaar, 'Ezatollah Yazadan-Panah, and Hozhabr Yazdani.

Mr Modarresi answered questions posed by our correspondent, Khoadayar Ghiasi, in connection with the matter: [begin recording]

[Ghiasi] Your Excellency, the Tehran public prosecutor, a list of names was published some time ago by the Association of Central Bank Staff which caused a great deal of exictement. Apparently a commission was assigned by the Tehran Public Prosecution to investigate the matter and find out who had been exporting foreign currency. Could you explain to our viewers and listeners what the commission has been doing and what it has come up with?

[Modarresi] Thank you very much for the opportunity provided me to give you some details. As you know, and as I have already stated, as a result of the publication of this list the Tehran Public Prosecution was confronted with protests by those whose names had appeared on the list. So an investigation was instituted to ascertain the accuracy or inaccuracy of the figures put on the list. I should, of course, explain at this point that at the time with which the list is concerned, the export of foreign currency from the country was free, and anyone could send as much foreign currency abroad as they needed. However, public feelings--which should be respected--dictated that the Justice Ministry and the Tehran Public Prosecution in particular should institute an investigation because exports of foreign currency had taken place in Tehran. This has started and I can give you good news today that the commission of inquiry headed by Mr Nurbakhsh, assistant Tehran public prosecutor, has worked very hard and it will today make a list of names so far investigated available to you. Mr Nurbakhsh himself will provide the necessary explanations in this regard. I will only add here that some of the names are not fully identifiable. For example, the first name is missing, or only surnames are given in lists of names sent to the central bank by other banks. We have confined ourselves to the names identified. Those who claim there is something untrue about the matters in question can contact the commission and explain the situation.

[Ghiasi] Your Excellency, would those listed be legally prosecuted if they are now, or have been in the past, government officials; that is, would they be treated in accordance with the "where you got it from" act passed by the Majlis?

[Modarresi] Obviously, if the figures relating to government employees are substantial and make it unlikely that they could have got the money by proper means, these would, of course, be suspect and the law will be implemented.

[Ghiasi] Will you investigate the figures and sources from which the funds were acquired--regardless of the amount--or will a private individual prefer a suit in this regard?

[Modarresi] No private suit or complaint will be necessary. However, the figure should be substantial in relation to other circumstances, for if a government employee has purchased 200,000 rials worth of foreign exchange to go to the United States to visit his son, for example, there is no need to investigate the matter because he could have saved the money from his earnings. [end recording]

The Tehran Public Prosecution's efforts to prepare and publish a list of names and particulars of others who have exported foreign currency from the country will be continued. As soon as we receive the details from the judicial authorities, we will immediately broadcast the news on national Iranian radio and television.

In a telephone interview a few minutes ago with a Voice of Iran correspondent, the Tehran public prosecutor said that as the investigation of the commission of inquiry at the central bank has not yet reached a conclusion with regard to particulars of individuals and the breakdown of figures involved, and in order to protect the legal status of individuals, the commission has been charged to pursue the case from today so that the full names and the amounts of foreign currency exported will be made public through the radio and television as soon as possible.

Now here is an interview with Mr Naser Nurbakhsh, the head of the commission of inquiry investigating the list of the names of foreign currency exporters: [begin recording]

[Ghiasi] Your Excellency, as the head of the commission of inquiry could you tell us how many people and how much money is involved in the list of the central bank staff?

[Nurbakhsh] The list published in the name of the Association of Central Bank Staff includes the names of about 178 people. These names have been made public. The list gave a total of 132.25 billion rials worth of foreign exchange as having been sent out. In addition, there were coded transfers mentioned at the bottom of the list. These amounted to 37.5 billion rials. The total amount of foreign exchange in rials alleged to have been exported in accordance with the list totaled 167.75 billion [figure as heard] during the 2 months beginning 23 August 1978.

[Ghiasi] Could you tell us how far your investigations have progressed and how much foreign currency was exported in the 2 months mentioned?

[Nurbakhsh] As a result of investigations conducted by the commission, we reached a certain conclusion and I have extracted these figures from the accounts ledgers. It was found that the central bank's payments and receipts in foreign exchange--that is, noncommercial foreign exchange which I will refer to later--over the 2 months beginning 23 August 1978 were as follows:

By the end of 22 August 1978, the central bank's net foreign exchange holding totaled $11.38 billion. Foreign exchange receipts for the months beginning 23 August and 23 September totaled $4.053 billion. Added to these, on account of converting foreign exchange rates for the period [converting other foreign currencies into dollars], was an amount equivalent to $387 million. The grand total was $15.82 billion.

The foreign exchange payments by the government in the period totaled $2.106 billion, and the sale of commercial and noncommercial foreign exchange of private banks in the period totaled $2.42 billion. The balance in foreign exchange accounts by 22 October totaled $11.3 billion. The commercial foreign exchange sold during the period totaled $1.41 billion. Noncommercial foreign exchange sold in the period--the material period--totaled $1.007 billion. Therefore, the sale of noncommercial foreign currency in the months beginning 23 August and 23 September by the central bank to the four banks acting as agents for sale of foreign exchange totaled $1.007 billion.

Noncommercial foreign exchange purchased from the central bank by other private banks and sold by them as well, totaled $592 million. This makes the total of noncommercial foreign exchange sold in the period throughout the country $1.599 billion. Converting this into rials at the rate of 70.60 rials to the dollar it becomes 112.9 billion rials.

[Ghiasi] What is the discrepancy between your figures and those in the central bank list?

[Nurbakhsh] Comparing the figures and with reference to the accounts and documents available at the central bank and scrutinized by the commission, the noncommercial foreign exchange sold in the period totaled 112.9 billion rials. The published list also included coded transfers. When we also take this into account the grand total becomes 167.75 billion rials. As a result, we have a discrepency amounting to 55 billion rials.

[Ghiasi] Could you tell us how many people have exported foreign currency?

[Nurbakhsh] As the Tehran public prosecutor said earlier in his remarks, 178 names were included in the list. As a result of our investigations, 102 names have been identified. Of course, as the Tehran public prosecutor remarked, final results require further inquiries because of similarity of names in bank accounts, because, for example, the surname of Nurbakhsh may occur under a number of different first names nationwide, each having made separate foreign exchange transfers from various parts of the country. We have asked the four main banks and other banks, that is, over 39 banks in Tehran and several thousands of their branches throughout the country, to provide us with an absolutely accurate list of names and particulars regardless of the position of the persons involved.

[Ghiasi] You have said there is a list of 102 people which you have given to us. Is it your opinion that the others did not send foreign currency abroad, or are you investigating the matter further, or are the others not named those who themselves say they have not sent money abroad?

[Nurbakhsh] As far as we have investigated, so far these names have been obtained. But this does not mean we might not come across other names in the future. We shall have to wait for the lists and accounts we have requested from various banks nationwide. These accounts will have to be scrutinized by chartered accountants under the supervision of one of the judges from the commission. First names should be ascertained and accounts and transfer documents compared with the published list. Then we will be able to express an opinion. [end recording]

CABINET DISCUSSES PREPARATIONS FOR STATE BUDGET

LD201448Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The cabinet met under General Azhari, the prime minister, this morning. At today's meeting, which was held at the prime minister's office, the cabinet discussed various government issues, including government bills which are under consideration. The cabinet also stressed the logical priorities and provisions to be observed in the preparation of the state budget based on economizing in all spheres, and decisions were made.

BANGLADESH

SAUDI ARABIA SIGNS ECONOMIC COOPERATION ACCORD

BK211126Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0605 GMT 21 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia have signed a technical and economic cooperation agreement. The accord was signed in Dacca this morning by the visiting Saudi minister for finance and national economy, Shaykh Aba al-Khayl, and the Bangladesh planning and finance minister, Dr M.N. Huda.

A permanent joint commission has been set up under the accord to maintain close economic cooperation between the two countries. The commission will meet every year or even more frequently to supervise implementation of provisions of the agreement. The two sides will establish joint development efforts with a view to promoting technical cooperation, especially through the exchange of scientific and technical knowhow. The agreement also envisages the exchange of manpower for educational and development activities.

Under the accord the two sides will seek to maintain the use of available facilities for practical on-the-job training in the educational institutions of both countries. The accord stipulates the promotion of trade and commerce between the two countries. The agreement will remain valid initially for 5 years and will be renewed automatically.

Later, addressing a news conference, the Saudi minister said that his country will continue to take great interest in the development of Bangladesh. He said Saudi Arabia will do its best to help Bangladesh for the implementation of the second 5-year plan.

The agreement signed today is the second between the two countries after President Zia's visit to Saudi Arabia. The first one was signed in Washington under which $150 million were proviced to Bangladesh as commodity assistance and $150 million as project assistance.

Shaykh al-Khayl said that Saudi Arabia was fully satisfied with the development efforts of Bangladesh and the remarkable achievements made over the past few years. He said his country is keen to help Bangladesh in rural development and the manpower sector as well. The main purpose of the joint commission, he said, is to explore the possibilities of promoting trade between the two countries.

About crude oil, the Saudi finance minister said that he would instruct Petromin to explore the possibility of supplying crude oil to Bangladesh on a commercial basis.

Dr M.N. Huda, who also addressed the news conference, said that Bangladesh has launched a program to fight poverty.

ISLAMIC DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS

BK210606Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 21 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The Bangladesh Islamic Democratic League [IDL] has decided to participate in the coming parliamentary elections.

The decision was taken at a 3-day emergency meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the IDL with the party chief, Maulana Siddique Ahmed, in the chair.

A press release issued by the party says the meeting reviewed the overall situation of the country and maintained that the boycott of the elections will lead the country toward uncertainty and chaos and delay restoration of democracy.

INDIA

ISI GIVES ROUNDUP OF DISTURBANCES OVER GANDHI ARREST

BK2010O7Y Delhi ISI in English 0845 GMT 20 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Reports of demonstrations have come from many parts of the country following the arrest of Mrs Gandhi.

In Bangalore, the final day's play in the second cricket test between India and the West Indies has been cancelled in view of widespread disturbances in the city. The AIR [All-India Radio] Bangalore correspondent reported that police burst 150 rounds of teargas shells at several places and resorted to lathi [baton] charges to disperse violent mobs in some of the bus shopping centres. Over 200 persons, including 2 Congress-I MLA's [members of legislative assembly], have been arrested for allegedly obstructing movement of trains. Prohibitory orders have been imposed in the city for a week. The situation is now stated to be under control. The state chief minister Devraj Urs has appealed to the people not to resort to violence.

Sporadic incidents of stone throwing have also come in from different parts of Tamil Nadu. In Trivandrum, Congress-I workers attacked the general post office.

In Ahmedabad, over 120 people have been arrested.

Some incidents of stone throwing at the Janata Party office have been reported from Nagpur. Pune also remained tense. In Indore, 115 Congress-I workers were taken into preventive custody. More than 50 members of the Congress-I including the president of the state unit of the party, Kedar Pande, courted arrest in Patna.

In Calcutta there was a demonstration by the Congress-I workers.

In Delhi no untoward incident was reported although a number of people were arrested defying prohibitory orders. Several members of parliament led by Vasat Sathe began a fast in the inner lobby of the Lok Sabha to protest against Mrs Gandhi's arrest. They said they will continue their fast till the house was prorogued.

Congress-I has called for a bundh [strike] in Bihar, Karnataka, Jammu, Bombay and Kanpur on December 20. The party plans to observe a bundh in Maharashtra on December 21. The AIR Bombay correspondent reported that life in the city was normal in spite of the bundh call.

The decision to arrest and expel Mrs Gandhi from the Lok Sabha has been welcomed by many Janata Party leaders including Nanaji Deshmukh, Dr Murli Manohar Joshi, S.M. Joshi, Ram Naresh, Yadav Shanta Kumar and Devi Lal.

Among those who condemned the decision were the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chenna Reddy, president of the Indian Muslim League Ibrahim Sulaiman Sait, M.P., the CPI (Communist Party of India) leader S. A. Dange and C. Subramaniam Chandrajeet Yadav, K.D. Malaviya and V.C. Shukla, all former union ministers. However, number of prominent leaders declined to make any comment on the decision. Among them were Jayaprakash Narayan, Virendra Patil, Bhupesh Gupta and Jyoti Basu.

Former additional solicitor general of India M.F.S. Nariman has said that the parliament had no other option left for upholding the honour and dignity of the house of the people than the action it took against Mrs Gandhi. Speaking in the Spotlight Programme of All India Radio, Nariman said the vote awarding punishment was the voice of the collective wisdom of the house.

Further Report on Demonstrations

BK201609Y Delhi ISI in English 1450 GMT 20 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Violent incidents have been reported from some parts of the country on December 20 in connection with the bundh [strike] call given by Congress-I in protest against the arrest of Mrs Gandhi, reports AIR [All-India Radio].

In Bangalore police opened two rounds of fire when a group of people attempted to set fire to a car. No one was injured. Eighty persons have been arrested. Police burst 50 rounds of teargas shells to disperse unruly mobs in different parts of the city. The AIR Bangalore correspondent reported that the situation was tense. Buses were off roads and shops and hotels have been closed.

The situation was peaceful in Hyderabad. Demonstrators have begun dharnas [sit-ins] in front of government offices. Some Congress-I workers were arrested when they wanted to force their entry into the campus of the Hyderabad station of All-India Radio. City transport services have been suspended.

In Madras about 200 Congress-I workers were arrested for attempting to enter the head post office. Suburban trains were dislocated as a high explosive burst in the railway track between Chetput and Hunganbakkam railway stations. No one was injured nor any damage caused. City buses were running as usual. But long distance trains to and from Madras are running late.

In Bombay life was near normal. There were a few cases of stone throwing and arson. Three city buses were set on fire by demonstrators. Some arrests have been made. Demonstrations have also been reported from some other cities of Maharashtra.

The bundh call had no impact in Patna. Government offices and business establishments functioned normally.

Calcutta remained completely peaceful. Some preventive arrests were made in the city.

The situation in Kanpur was normal. But some educational institutions have been closed.

According to reports, processions were taken out in some district headquarters in Haryava and Punjab. According to official sources, the processions were small and have been peaceful. At many places demonstrators courted arrest.

In Delhi police fired in the air and burst teargas shells in Connaught Place to disperse Congress-I supporters who pelted stones, damaging a Delhi transport cooporation bus, and tried to force their way to Parliament House, reports PTI.

In another incident a police truck was set on fire in Chandni Chowk in the walled city. Several shops in the area remained closed.

The Rajya Sabha adjourned on December 20 without transacting any business following noisy demonstrations by Congress-I members. When Chairman Jatti entered the house and occupied his chair at the stroke of 1100, Congress-I merbers started shouting slogans saying that they will not allow the house to proceed with its normal business. Some of them even went near the podium.

The slogan shouting continued for more than 5 minutes despite the repeated request by the chair not to do so. When there was no response from the Congress-I benches Jatti announced that the house was adjourned until December 21.

Delhi Radio Report

BK201559Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Unruly demonstrations took place at a few places today in connection with the arrest of Mrs Indira Gandhi. The demonstrators made attempts to disturb the even tenor of life by disrupting communications and damaging public property.

In Bangalore, three persons were killed in police firing. Teargas was used to disperse unruly mobs at some places.

In Kerala, one person was killed in clashes between supporters and opponents of Mrs Gandhi in Cannanore District. In Madras about 200 Congress-I workers were arrested when they attempted to enter the head post office building. Suburban trains were dislocated, but the city buses are running as usual.

About 1,000 demonstrators were arrested in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

In Bombay, life is normal despite a few cases of stone throwing and arson.

In Delhi, police burst teargas shells to disperse Congress-I supporters who turned violent. Police fired one revolver shot in the air following an attempt to set a bus on fire.

In Srinagar, a government office was damaged. In Calcutta, police burst teargas shells to disperse a violent mob. Reports from Patna and several other places say the life is normal despite the bundh [strike] call.

DELHI REPORTS SURRENDER, ARREST OF AIRLINE HIJACKERS

BK210658Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 21 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The 14 hours drama of the hijacking of the Indian airliner on its way to Delhi from Calcutta have ended with the surrender and arrest of the two hijackers. The hijackers, named as Bhola Nath Pandey and Virendra Pandey, released the passangers this morning at the Varanasi Airport after having night-long talks with UP [Uttar Pradesh State] Chief Minister Ram Naresh Yadav. All the 125 passengers were freed and are being brought to Delhi by the plane today.

Mr Yadav made an offer to the hijackers that they would be taken to Lucknow after all the passengers were released.

Mr Yadav arrived at the Varanasi Airport last night as the hijackers insisted would talk to him. During the negotiations, they demanded the release of Mrs Gandhi, the withdrawal of the criminal cases against her and Mr Sanjay Gandhi and the resignation of the Janta government. They also demanded that, if at all Mrs Gandhi is to be kept under detention, she should be kept at her residence. They however conceded that the chief minister could not fulfill any of these conditions and wanted to be taken to Lucknow where they could address a press conference before the surrender.

Reaction to Hijacking

BK211307Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The hijacked Indian Airlines Boeing has arrived in Delhi with 124 passengers aboard who are all safe. The two hijackers who went to Lucknow from Varanasi in a UP government aircraft have been arrested and are being interrogated. The crew has been flown to Calcutta from Varanasi.

After his return to Lucknow, Mr Yadav [Uttar Pradesh chief minister] told newsmen that both of the hijackers have admitted that they belong to Congress-I. He said the checking team at Lucknow Airport has been suspended. The hijackers had boarded the plane from Lucknow yesterday.

Mr Yadav charged the Congress-I with creating an atmosphere of violence, anarchy and intimidation.

The industries minister, Mr Fernandes, has said the hijacking and incidents of violence are the result of what he called the premeditated machinations of the erstwhile dictator and her (?maniacs). In a statement in New Delhi, Mr Fernandes said it is a challenge to all democratic elements to rise to the occasion and give a befitting reply.

The hijacking incident figured prominently in both houses of parliament today. The Lok Sabha had a full discussion and the civil aviation minister, Mr Kaushik, gave the house details of the incident. Members said the hijacking is indicative of something far deeper and a climate of violence is being deliberately fostered. Some Janata members alleged that the Congress-I has engineered the hijacking, but the charge was denied by the Congress-I benches. Mrs Mohsina Kidwai [secretary of Uttar Pradesh branch of Congress-I], whose name had been mentioned by the hijackers, denied any connection with them and said she had been wrongly mentioned, The other person, Mr Sanjay Gandhi, who had also been mentioned by the hijackers told UNI [United News of India] that he was acquainted with Virendra Nath Pandey; if he was the one, he was a member of the Youth Congress-I.

In the Rajya Sabha several members expressed grave concern at the incident and strongly condemned it. They demanded an inquiry into how the two hijackers could board the plane with a handgrenade without being detected. The leader of the opposition, Mr Kamalapati Tripathi, condemned the hijacking and said his party always believed in peaceful movement. He alleged that there was a conspiracy to tarnish the image of his party.

The general body of the Congress parliamentary party has condemned the hijacking and the violent incidents following the imprisonment of Mrs Gandhi. They said that the resorting to violence would only destroy democracy. A meeting of the general body was held in New Delhi today.

The Congress-I working committee has also condemned the incident. In a resolution it said the party never believed in such methods and condemned what it called attempts to implicate the Congress-I.

BANGLADESH FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS DESAI, ENDS VISIT

BK210911Y Delhi ISI in English 0841 GMT 21 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The foreign minister of Bangladesh, Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq, had talks with Prime Minister Morarji Desai for about 50 minutes in New Delhi on 20 December, reports PTI. Minister of External Affairs Atal Bihari Vajpayee was present at the meeting. During his meeting with Desai, Professor Haq handed over a letter from President Ziaur Rahman.

Professor Haq had a 100-minute meeting with Vajpayee earlier in the day.

During Professor Haq's talks with the Indian leaders both sides expressed happiness that they had crossed a major hurdle by reaching agreement on Farakka.

Before emplaning for Lahore, Professor Haq told newsmen at Delhi airport that his visit had further strengthened the close neighbourly relations between the two countries.

RESULTS OF INDO-BULGARIAN TRADE COUNCIL TALKS GIVEN

BK201623Y Delhi ISI in English 1435 GMT 20 Dec 78 BK

[Text] India and Bulgaria on December 18 agreed that a new thrust be given to economic and trade cooperation between the two countries reports INDIAN EXPRESS.

At the first meeting of Indo-Bulgarian joint council it was decided that such cooperation should be further diversified, new areas identified and a greater number of joint enterprises be set up by Bulgaria in India. The need for making existing Indo-Bulgarian ventures economically viable was also underlined by the two delegations. The Indian delegation was led by P.C. Gandhi, president of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, while the Bulgarian side was led by Peter Ignatov, first vice president of the Bulgarian chamber.

The council decided that third country projects should be taken by the two countries on a joint basis. Both sides agreed to review the matter further, especially for working as partners in contracting a sub-contracting consultancy and construction jobs.

The council considered the economic situation in the two countries, reviewed recent trends in Indo-Bulgarian trade including liberalisation of the Indian import policy and joint prospects in Indian and Bulgaria. It was noted that in India high levels of agricultural production had been achieved, the foreign exchange reserve position was comfortable and there had been general price stability. Likewise in Bulgaria, the economy was recording high rates of growth under the current 5-year plan.

The discussions were held in the background of the recent protocol signed by the two governments under which from January 1, 1979 trade between the two would be carried on on a freely convertible currency basis, marking a departure from the rupee trade operating since 1958.

DELHI REPORTS: RUPEE DEVALUED AGAINST POUND STERLING

BK210347Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The rupee has been devalued by a 2.12 percent against the pound sterling. An announcement by the reserve bank said that the (?middle) rate of 16 rupees 50 paisa per pound sterling has been fixed. Earlier the (?middle) rate was 16 rupees 15 paise.

PAKISTAN

KARACHI REPORTS BHUTTO 20 DEC TESTIMONY IN SUPREME COURT

BK201705Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Dec 78 BK

[Text] In the Supreme Court, which is hearing appeals in the murder case of Mohammad Ahmed Khan, the main appellant continued his submissions for the third day today.

Making submissions about the conspiracy, Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto said that an expressed agreement, a vital ingredient of a criminal conspiracy, has not been established. His submission today mainly related to the testimony of the main approver Masood Mahmud [director of defunct Federal Security Force].

He said Masood Mahmud was not a reliable witness. He was not even qualified to become an approver in law, and therefore his evidence should be cross-checked before it was relied upon by the court.

The main appellant denied having made any threat to Masood Mahmud or having compelled him to take the appointment as the chief of the Federal Security Force. He said that he had met with Masood Mahmud before his appointment and that his appointment as federal security chief was on merit as he was a sufficiently senior police officer to be qualified for the job. As far as recommendations are concerned, he said Mr Aziz Ahmed and Mr Abdul Hafiz Pirzada [ministers in Bhutto's cabinet] had spoken to him about Masood Mahmud and this was only a supplementary factor.

The main appellant said that the statements of Masood Mahmud were contradictory and that major points were missing in the statements made before the court. He said that fresh points raised in the statements were not correct.

The Supreme Court directed the prosecution counsel, Mr Ijaz Hussain Batalvi, to make oral or written statements in reply to submissions made by the main defense counsel, Yahya Bakhtiar, about further cross-examination on the basis of their statements made under Section 161 and contained in police notes and diaries.

The court observed that the main defense counsel has pointed out various discrepancies in the statements, and before a decision is to be taken whether to recall any of these witnesses for further cross-examination the prosecution should put in replies to the submissions by the defense.

BANGLADESH FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

BK2016311Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh Foreign Minister Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq arrived in Lahore this evening on his way to Islamabad to begin a 3-day official visit to Pakistan.

He told newsmen at Lahore Airport that he will hold informal talks with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Adviser on Foreign Affairs Mr Agha Shahi. There is no fixed agenda for the talks.

He said he will convey good wishes to the Pakistani president from Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman and express thanks for the noteworthy Pakistani support to Bangladesh for its election to the UN Security Council.

Answering a question on his country's role as a member of the UN Security Council, the Bangladesh foreign minister said that like Pakistan his country also believes in Third World unity and solidarity.

Answering another question, he said Pakistan and Bangladesh are cooperating with each other at international forums. The Bangladesh foreign minister described the existing Pakistan-Bangladesh relations as very good and friendly and said his visit will further improve these relations.

He said there are prospects to improve bilateral relations, especially in the economic fields. He said the volume of trade has risen considerably in recent times and his country wishes to further improve trade relations with Pakistan.

Earlier, the provincial chief secretary and other top officials welcomed him.

ACTION TAKEN TO OFFSET SCHEDULED OPEC OIL PRICE INCREASE

BK2011104Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Dec 78 BK

[Excerpts] The government has revised the prices of petroleum products in view of the increase of approximately 15 percent announced by the OPEC in the price of its crude. The subsidies on kerosene, light diesel oil and high-speed diesel oil will, however, continue.

Explaining the rationale behind the new prices, the federal finance minister, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, told newsmen in Islamabad today that with the announcement of the increase of crude oil prices by OPEC, the government had no alternative left but to absorb the rise by judiciously spreading it over the entire range of petroleum products consumed within the country. He said that as a result of these adjustments the government expected to realize about 830 million rupees, as against the estimated impact of 900 rupees due to the OPEC increase in the prices of crude oil. Despite these increases, he said, kerosene would continue to enjoy a subsidy of 48 paisa, light diesel oil 34 paisa and high-speed diesel oil 11 paisa per liter. The finance minister said that despite the increases, these products in Pakistan will still be cheaper as compared to any other country in the region.

Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that the recent revival in the economy has resulted in a sharp increase in the level of the consumption of petroleum products. Due to higher consumption, the current year's import bill of crude petroleum and [word indistinct] petroleum products have been projected at $497 million. With the announced increase in crude oil prices by the OPEC, the import bill on a yearly basis will likely go up by another $90 million.

With the payments balance and the budget already in deficit, and unlike the developed countries [words indistinct], there was no other alternative to set off the OPEC increases but to revise the prices of the petroleum products consumed in the country.

The finance minister said that in view of these circumstances it was decided by the government that instead of levying any general tax, the impact of the increase should be absorbed by spreading it over the entire range of petroleum products. This was a more rational way. The finance minister said that the decision by the OPEC to increase the prices of crude will affect the economic revival of the non-oil-producing developing countries.

KARACHI COMMENTS ON EFFECTS OF OIL PRICE RISE

BK210604Y Karachi Overseas Service in Bengali 0115 GMT 21 Dec 78 BK

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The oil-exporting countries have announced the decision to increase the price of oil again after a 2 year's price freeze. According to the latest OPEC decision the price of oil will increase between 14 and 15 percent. This will take place in stages between January and October 1979. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, who opposed the OPEC decision to increase the price of oil, have decided to stabilize the prices for (?2 years). Saudi Oil Minister Zaki Yamani gave assurances that he would maintain the price stability until 1980, if necessary.

This is the fourth OPEC price increase since 1974. There is a consolation for the oil-importing countries in that OPEC, considering the serious repercussions on the world economy, decided to reduce to the present rate its earlier proposal to increase the price by 25 percent. The role of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in this decision cannot be ignored. There is no doubt that these two petroleum-producing countries of the Third World, though unsuccessful in their attempt to check the greed of the other oil-producing countries, helped to control it to some extent.

After the price of oil is increased beginning the 5th of next month, oil-importing countries will have to pay a bill of $120 billion. Undoubtedly, this will be a serious economic threat to the world's oil-importing countries. The developing countries of the Third World, in particular, will be the hardest hit victims of this price increase. Western oil-importing countries may compensate for this increase by exporting their heavily priced industrial and consumer products to the oil exporters. But the developing countries will have to bear not only the burden of the oil price increase but also the inflationary pressure of the world economy owing to this increase. Besides oil, the developing countries of the Third World also import foodstuffs, fertilizers, seeds, insecticides, medicines and other items. The impact of the dual pressure from the oil price increase and world inflation on these countries can easily be comprehended.

The Government of Pakistan, in view of the rise in the oil price by OPEC and having no other alternative, has announced the decision to limit the increase of petroleum and petroleum products. As a result, the government will realize 830 million rupees while it has to pay an extra 900 million rupees for oil purchases.

Still, the Pakistani minister for finance disclosed, in comparison with neighboring countries the prices for petroleum and petroleum products in Pakistan are cheaper. However, the recurring fluctuations in the oil market as a result of OPEC decisions create critical situations for the whole world, especially for a developing country like Pakistan.

There is an urgent need to tackle this situation. The Western developed countries, including Japan, can help the world economy recover only by stabilizing prices and controlling exchange rate of currencies.

SRI LANKA

TRADE PROTOCOL WITH PRC SIGNED IN COLOMBO

BK201628Y Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 20 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The 26th trade protocol between Sri Lanka and China, providing for a two-way exchange of goods worth $110 million, was signed at the BMICH [Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall] in Colombo this morning. A contract was also signed for delibery of rubber to China next year.

The conclusion of the protocol followed discussions between the visiting Chinese trade delegation led by Mr Wang Jun-sheng, deputy minister of foreign trade, and the Sri Lanka delegation led by the secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Shipping, Mr (Lakshman de Mel).

The feature of the new protocol is the diversification of the import-export pattern. Sri Lanka has not contracted for the import of rice next year. Among the main items that Sri Lanka will export under the new protocol will be 45,000 metric tons of rubber, 5,000 metric tons of coconut oil, $2 million worth of ayurvedic [indignous] drugs and coco. Imports from China will include diesel and kerosene oil, paraffin wax, other petroleum products, textiles and chemicals. The protocol provides for [word indistinct] quantities and commodities.

Speaking at the signing of the protocol today, the Chinese vice minister of trade noted with gratitude Sri Lanka's courageous stand in supplying rubber to China at a time when [word indistinct] forces were opposed to such a step. While observing that the development of trade over the last 20 years symbolizes the close relationship between the two countries, he said China appreciated Sri Lanka's development progress in agriculture, which he hoped would eventually enable the country to export (?rice).

Mr (Lakshman de Mel) said that the protocol marked another step forward in the development of trade relations.

PARLIAMENT UPSET OVER TERRORISM IN NORTH

SK201329Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Parliament adjourned in a note of discord last night when the TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] opposition walked out after the opposition leader, Mr Amirthalingam, tried to impress on the house that a reign of terror had been unleashed by the police and the armed services in the north.

The prime minister, Mr R. Premadasa, told the parliament that after the formation of the so-called liberation front in the northern province there had been a militant campaign to undermine the governmental authority and the sovereignty of the state. The police had become the target of attack by certain militant youth and it was a general belief that the TULF was compelled to accept a policy (?of violence) by this militant youth with a view to forming a separate state. This had eventually led to a confrontation with the law enforcement authorities.

Mr Premadasa claimed that a progressive campaign to demoralize, discredit and destroy the police service had been launched by these elements in the northern province. This has resulted in the cold-blooded and brutal murder of 11 policemen.

The prime minister said the Jaffna Peninsula was in such a state today that no citizen would give evidence in a case where this terrorist organization, the so-called "Tiger Movement", was involved. Members of the Tamil community opposed to them, he said, were considered as traitors.

Mr Premadasa said in this context policemen and servicemen, who are themselves human beings, might well attempt reprisals. But the government was not prepared to condone any of these acts. Its aim was to maintain law and order at whatever cost.

During a stormy session some government members alleged that the TULF was playing a double game by denouncing the terrorists when they came to parliament and consorting with them back in Jaffna.

HAMEED: SRI LANKA JOURNALISTS NOT CIA AGENTS

BK161148Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Hameed, yesterday refuted an allegation that certain Sri Lankan journalists were connected with the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States Government. Replying to a question raised by the district minister for Galle, Mr Rupa Karunatilleke, in parliament Mr Hameed said that as foreign minister a duty was cast on him to explain the exact position.

Mr Hameed said he had contacted the American Embassy in Colombo about the authenticity of the allegation that five Sri Lankan journalists were CIA agents. The charge d'affaires had written to him stating that he had checked with Washington and found that there was no truth either in the allegations made or of the reports of an alleged United States Senate committee document on this matter.

Mr Hameed said that from this explanation and other inquiries he had made, he was of the view that there was nothing to show that the allegation had any foundation.